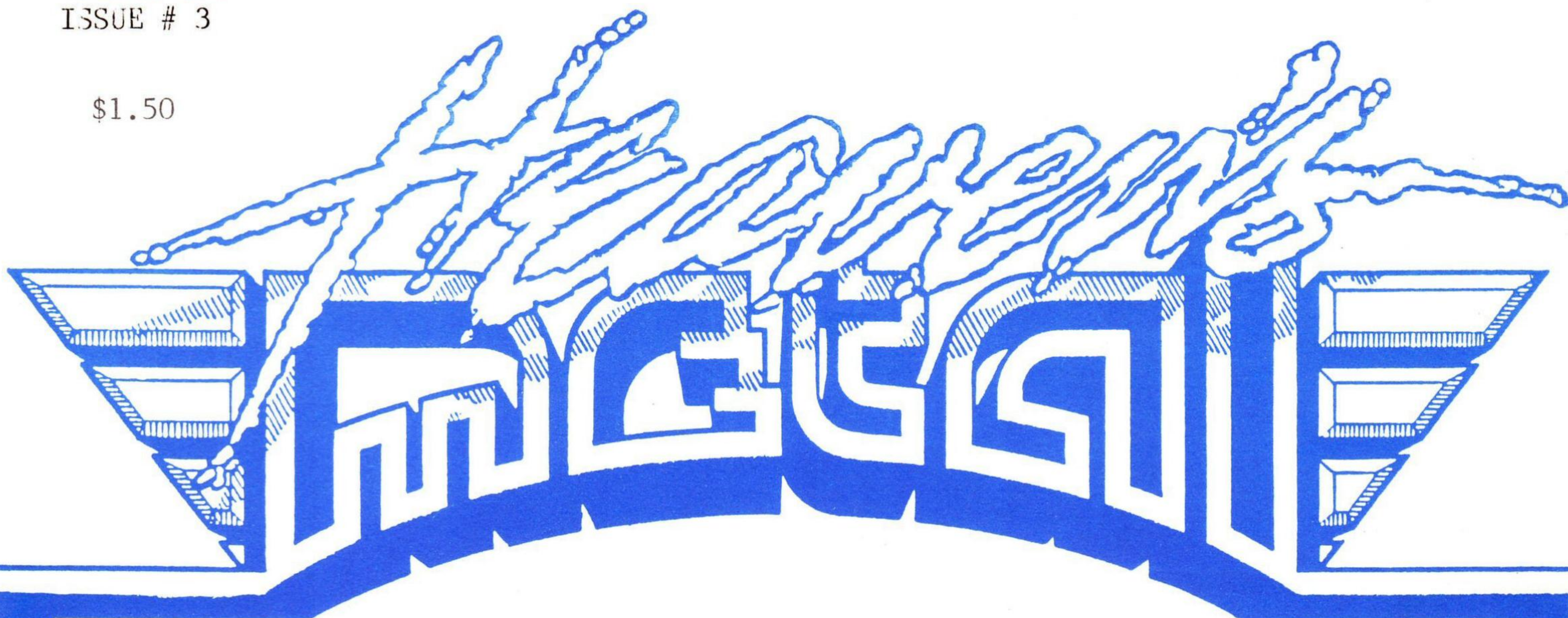


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WHITE
CROSS



Cover photos by Ruby Michael

In Memory of



John Vidaurri

On December 9th of 1987, John Vidaurri went to be with the Lord. He was the rhythm guitarist and chief motivator of Paradox. Now he's present with Jesus!

This issue is dedicated to the memory of John Vidaurri.

I can remember sitting down with John everytime I saw Paradox and talking about what the Lord was doing with the band. John loves God. It was evident by looking into his eyes. When I went to his funeral, I got to meet some of the fruit of his life. I met guys that he had led to the Lord. I met people he had driven across San Antonio to take to church every Sunday.

Here are some comments from others who loved him:

"John and I talked on the phone only once or twice, but I can say he was a person who really cared for others in a big way.

"He was gracious enough to invite me out to Texas, to meet him, his wife, and the others of Paradox.

"One thing for sure, he really loved the Lord. We prayed together over the phone and I've seen answered prayers.

"He was an easy goin' guy, who was fun to talk with and I will never ever forget him and the impact he's had on my life."

--Bob Hopkins, Heaven's Metal Correspondant

"It was through his faithfulness and obedience to God that inspired this vision--Paradox--to become a reality in our hearts and to reach out to many.

"John's deep and enduring relationship for the Lord kept us on our toes, and made Jesus a stronghold in our walk. (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

"Whomever he met or spoke to, he touched them with the same love God touches us. (Matthew 5:16)

"He laughed, he cried, he rocked for the Lord. He fasted and prayed and always encouraged us to do so.

"The first time I met John, we were downtown in the street witnessing. A preacher in the background was preaching fire and brimstone. I turned to look at John and tears were rolling down his eyes. I asked him what was wrong, and John said that that kind of preaching hurt him and lacks the love and the compassion that God has for the lost. John, brother, you are deep. Some let their waters run narrow and shallow, but your river ran deep."

--Manuel Castillo,
Paradox's lead vocalist

"John was my best friend in Christ. He always inspired me and

influenced me spiritually and musically. He was always talking about Jesus. Someone asked me once that they wanted to see the love of God. I would say, 'Let me introduce you to John,' and after they met him they would tell me, 'Man, that guy really has a lot of love and compassion and is very sensitive to my feelings.' John was and still is a great part of me. My love for him will continue for him. He would always say, 'We've got to go and tell all those people about Jesus and show them love and mercy, just like Jesus has for us.' Have faith."

--Fernando Hernandez,
Paradox's lead guitarist

"Sisters and brothers, I'd like to tell you a little something about a good brother I had in the Lord. John was a good example to me and the band. The last thing I can remember is John telling me to never take my eyes off God. He was a great guitar player. If there's something I knew about John, is that he loved the Lord with all his heart."

--Efrain Galicia,
Paradox's drummer

John is survived by his wife, Liz. Please keep her in your prayers.

One On One With Whitecross

By Steve Schmutzer

"I've been looking forward to this for quite a while." My wife, Laura, looks over at me from the other side of the car. "Yes," she agrees, "I know what you mean, I'm pretty excited too!" We pull up to the frosty intersection and glance to our left. There they are...the golden arches, McDonald's! I smile inside; I hardly ever go to a McDonald's, but I certainly am looking forward to going to this one. I am scheduled to meet with the latest and biggest rage to come from Pure Metal Records, the band **Whitecross**. The ice and snow crackle loudly beneath the wheels of our car as we inch up to finally park directly across from a large glass window at this establishment. There they are, seated around a small table inside. I point the band members out to Laura as we brace ourselves against the frigid assault of the cold winter evening and make our way to the door. She's already seen them and turns to smile broadly at me. We step inside and walk over to where Whitecross is casually arranged about the standard furnishings. I notice immediately that these guys don't blend in too well with the rest of the customers here. They turn and stand to acknowledge us as we approach them, tall and polite, their shocks of hair I notice all significantly longer than when I witnessed their bombastic performance at Cornerstone '87 this last summer. I introduce myself and my wife to them, and they each in turn introduce themselves to us. A few quick exchanges of thoughts among us mutually confirm that this is not the best place to conduct a decent interview; it is too noisy with the hum of good business. We agree to a place just down the street, and as we drive to this new location I am restless with anticipation. I have done most all possible to follow this band's progress since their self-titled debut release on the Pure Metal Record label. Now is my chance to get to know them better. We park the car once more and walk inside.

"I'd like to know what the response has been to Whitecross," I ask. "I understand it was originally stated by some spokesman for Pure Metal that Whitecross was 'going to burn a lot of people's ears.' I glance about the table amused to see the smiles in response to the question. Scott Wenzel, vocalist for the band, adjusts in his seat opposite me and says, in his soft-spoken manner (can this be the same guy who literally belts it out in concert?), "I think it was in Heaven's Metal Magazine."

I agree, "I think it was too, and that was my only idea of who Whitecross was until I saw you explode on the side stage at Cornerstone '87. You really blew me

away; I couldn't believe what I was seeing." Rex Carroll, the astounding guitarist and present spokesman for the group sets down his coffee and humbly replies. "I'll tell you, at that time we were really thrilled to be there because, believe me, I used to shake my head and say that Whitecross would never get out of the basement. We needed to play in front of a real rock audience, but it's amazing to see what God can do with nothing. My personal scripture for the band was the one where Paul says that God uses the things of this world that are of no esteem to shame what is considered the wisdom of the world. (I looked this passage up; see 1 Cor. 1:26-31.) Our band used to look pretty silly." The relaxed and casual laughing of the other band members to this last confession by their axe-man shows me their agreement to Rex's perceptions.

Retrospectively, Rex continues, "At Cornerstone '87 that was by far and leaps-and-bounds our best gig that we had played. Now, looking back six months later, we way outperform Cornerstone. But, at that time we hadn't played four people together for a long time, even in rehearsal, let alone on stage. We'd been in production for so long doing sectional work. We're like the Fleetwood Macs and the Eagles of the industry; we don't do quick studio work. If you give me six months to punch in every note, I'll take six months to do it all. But prior to Cornerstone anyway, we'd only played to small audiences, the biggest being about 200 people. So far we're fortunate enough to not have been slammed by any of the David Wilkersons or anything like that, and we haven't done anything big enough to rate any significant media attention."

Scott interjects. "I've talked to our own pastor at Calvary Temple for hours and he backs us up. We just need to remember who we are and who we are modeling: Jesus. If we do that, I'm not too worried about what others think." I cast a glance to my wife who is gazing intently at Scott, absorbing wholly the truth of what he is saying. Rex snaps me back to full attention. "I have a problem," he says, "with guys who on their album picture appear in spandex with their parts hanging out all over the place. I don't feel it's glorifying to God. As far as our own theology goes, I believe we're very conservative. My hero is Francis Shaeffer." He pauses, and I comment, "I've listened closely to your lyrics; they're very street-Gospel oriented with very basic and fundamental theologies presented." I look about as four heads nod in agreement with this.

"Have you received any response from the secular press or audience?" I inquire, pen ready in hand.

"Kerrang!" Rex states, "and Metal Forces."

"Metal Forces?" I ask. "I'm not familiar with that publication."

"Well, Bloodgood showed the article to us," states Jon Sproule, bassist.

"Yeah," Rex continues, "it's the #2 European metal magazine, and they gave it a real good review."

I'm anxious to ask more questions. "I'm curious, and I don't mean to put my choir robe on or anything, but I am most interested in how God has worked in each one of your lives specifically since the emerging of Whitecross."

Bassist Jon responds immediately, "It's gotten me more into the Book. It's also made me realize more of who I am. A lot of people come up to me now and make me feel like I'm somebody special or something. With that, and realizing my responsibility in being so open to everybody, it's really made me grow a lot."

Jon glances at Rex, and I follow suit. Rex hesitates, and slowly weighs each idea as he deliberately formulates his thoughts into careful expressions. "I have had my trouble with the thing that a lot of people feel. You know, we all want to be a rock star or something. Well, I went through a real long dry spell in my career, where nothing was happening. I had to realize that God runs the system. I'm just a tool. He gave me one talent to use, but it's His choice as to how He wants me to use it. Sometimes it's hard to see that when we want our own way over His. We're all in agreement in the band that if our ministry came to an end next week, well, that's okay with us if it's what God wants. Maybe He just wants us to reach that one special person through one particular concert in this ministry. You know, 1987 has been a good year for the band, but it all comes from Him. It has nothing to do with the fact that we deserve it. All we need to worry about is being faithful, and success to us I think we can define as: if in fact we were faithful to His calling, then we were successful. This has been my challenge in the band and where I've really seen my growth."

It's Scott's turn, and I move the recorder over to him as he softly relays his feelings on his own spiritual growth while in the band. "Back when we began, there really wasn't much to us. I played guitar and there was one other guy. That was the very beginning of Whitecross. Along the way I've had to realize that God's will is being done in His way. The band has made me walk closer to the Lord. I didn't realize that God could ever inspire us to write songs on our own for Him. We used to do songs that other bands had already written and sung, the argument being that kids like to hear something that they're

familiar with. Our first concert back then was at some place called Camp Wonderland and we were doing songs from other groups. But four people got saved then at that concert, and that was my answer to prayer when I said to Him, 'Lord, if this is Your will for me, then I want to see some fruit.' It was great, even though we sounded terrible. I guess that's what it's really all about, doing God's will. But hey! We want to hear from Mark."

Scott leans over to his left with a grin and slaps their drummer, Mark Hedl, good-naturedly on the knee. Mark smiles gently and begins talking in his unassuming manner, "To me, the band has made a massive difference. I had known Rex for almost ten years, and then, in January '86, he called me and asked me if I wanted to join a band. I was in this other band in Chicago at the time and I wasn't a Christian." I pay him even more attention now; I hadn't realized this fact. "Well, the guys really accepted me when I joined and I was kind of surprised. They didn't try to jam the Bible down my throat or anything, and they had a really positive message for the kids, not something weird or anything. It was the really simple things that changed me. There wasn't, and never has been, any partying or cuss words or people fighting amongst themselves. That made an impression on me."

I shake my head slowly as this fact has made a distinct impact on me, and I briefly relate to Whitecross the similarity of Mark Hedl's conversion with that of the experience of Bloodgood's drummer, Mark Welling. Other heads gesture in wonderment.

It's back to the business at hand. "How's the new album doing?" I ask.

"The one we just completed?" Rex inquires. "Or the new bun in the oven?" asks Scott.

I confirm that I'm talking "new bun" and Rex muses aloud, "Well, it was going along pretty good, but we got a monkey wrench sort of thrown in now. Pure Metal is going to do a compilation record in March called 'Heavy Righteous Metal' and uh..." Jon jokingly interjects, "So that means expect it in your bookstores in June!" Rex and the others laugh, and then Rex continues carefully, "They asked us if we'd do a single for it. We said, 'Yeah, and you'll bill it as 'from their forthcoming second album,' right?' They said no, and that it would only be available on that particular release. I went, 'Oh no, you mean we have to write another song?' You know, some bands can sit down and rip off all these songs, and to me, well, that's mind-boggling! We use all the hours available to us in the studio, and it takes us a long time to write new material. I want to make sure it's the absolute best."



Scott Wenzel

Photo by Dan Stawski

"What song are you going to have on the new compilation album?" I ask.

"Well," Rex counters, "seeing as we only have one song finished, it'll be that one. It's called 'If Tomorrow Never Came,' and Mark here wrote it. On the last album, Scott and I pretty much wrote the lyrics together and were co-producers of it. Since then, we've grown to where now Mark's contributing and Jon's contributing."

"I have to harp on an 'old' thing here," I volunteer cautiously. "Your old album sounded a lot like Ratt. How about the new one? Will it sound much the same?"

Emphatically, Rex responds. "It'll sound like Motley Crue, I predict."

Oppositely me Scott winces and hangs and shakes his head, "Who is that? Who is that? Who is Ratt? Who is Motley Crue?"

Rex grins at him, turns back to me and continues to clarify. "No, what I mean is, I predict people will say the new album sounds like Motley Crue."

"Why?" I want to know.

"Well," Rex thoughtfully stares at his cold coffee. He hasn't had much opportunity to drink it. "Now that people have heard us on our first

release, everyone wants to compare us to somebody. I'm merely guessing, that with a few things we'll be doing, that people will say these things. Actually, I take the comparison to Ratt as a sincere compliment. (I quickly assure him that I meant it as such...) If we could sell half as many albums as Ratt, we'd be doing good."

There's general laughter that commences at this and it only intensifies as Jon jokes about Sandi Patti appearing as a guest performer for backing vocals and Jimmy Swaggert as guest performer on piano and keyboards.

"Are there any songs you'd like to take into discussion that you're planning for this new album coming up?" I glance at my watch. Sheesh! Time is going quickly, I can't believe where it's gone!

"Well, the ballad's going to be a real tear-jerker," Scott confides. "I feel it's been totally inspired by God. It's called 'Walk With Me' as though God's singing it. That's really about it. We don't know enough about the other songs to talk about them intelligently."

"You're all sharing the songwriting responsibilities now?" I ask.

"I write a lot of stuff and then give it to Scott for ideas and all," says Jon.

"Overall," adds Rex, "this will be a more balanced album. Each of us are doing some independent things on it. You know, if you get too many guys all trying to do exactly the same thing, and arguing over the same baby, it's like: 'Well, I think his nose should look like this, but he wants his ears to look like that.'"

Scott laughs, "Yeah, you end up with a pretty funny-looking kid."

"Like Mr. Potato Head," says Jon.

"That should be the name of the new album: 'Mr. Potato Head'," says Mark quietly.

I am impressed to see the closeness of this band as we all crack up once more at this last comment.

"But anyway," says Scott, "my lyrics are straight. There's no second-guessing what I'm trying to say as they fly right in your face. But now there will be a bit more variety with all the other input."

I take a tangent. "And who's basically responsible for the musical end of things?" Scott jerks a thumb in the direction of Rex and says, "That's our hook monitor."

Rex reaffirms this. "Yeah, I keep an eye on the process and I provide the musical input generally."

"What's happening as far as secular distribution is concerned, anything at all?"

"Yeah," Rex reports, "we distribute our album through 'Important', which is easiest understood to handle the United States secular market, and through 'Jem', which sort of handles Europe."

"I get the general lead," I state as I begin once more a new focus on the discussion, "that your first album was directed largely to the unsaved, a very evangelistic thrust was threaded throughout. Would you agree to this?"

"We just do what we do," states Rex. "Our first goal is to reach the lost through the medium of music. And, number two, we want to challenge young believers to stay active in their churches and in their faith. But, I guess you could say there is an apparent evangelistic slant to the first album."

"Do you have a name for your forthcoming album?" I inquire.

Rex leans back comfortably and smiles at me. "Any suggestions?"

"Well," I'm slightly taken aback and at a loss for any immediate and brilliant proposals, "no, not right off hand...but I'd certainly be willing to offer any suggestions I may have later." (I think "Mr. Potato Head" is a great idea!--editor.)

"The first album is always easy to name," states Rex, "just 'Whitecross.'"

"What about touring?" I ask.

This is something I'm really interested in discovering as I want to see these guys live again really bad. "Well," reports Rex, "let me say this. The offer has been made to tour with Steve Taylor. We have accepted it. Major promoters around the country are promoting the event with pretty fair confidence that it will all go through okay. It's basically 99.9% sure at this point. It's a two-month coast-to-coast tour with at least 25 to 30 dates so far..."

"Major cities," interrupts Scott, "major cities."

"It's due to start somewhere about April 1st," continues Rex. "God is challenging us right now. You see, this tour is either from the Lord, or it's man striving for himself, or it's of the devil. We figure we can rule out the devil here. He doesn't have anything to gain by it. We can rule out man, as Steve Taylor called us. So, it's got to be the Lord. We've got families to support, so we're going to go full time with it. The Lord is blessing it so much right now."

"Anything else besides Steve Taylor?" I ask.

"Oh yeah," Rex immediately confirms. "There's several festivals for the summer, verbal at this point. That's the thing, you know, that makes you pull your hair out: everything is verbal. Cornerstone '88 is verbal right now, so is AtlantaFest. We also have a date confirmed on February 13th at Southbend, Indiana with Degarmo and Key, and something called Sonfest. If this joint deal with Degarmo and Key runs off pretty good, and we look compatible and all, well, there's the possibility of going on tour with them sometime around this Fall. I'm really excited, though, to get out to California with Steve Taylor. Our booking agent's trying to get some dates lined up out there when we're not actually committed a certain day to be playing with Steve, you know, like when he's off for the moment a day here and there."

"That's really great," I respond. "It sounds as though you're getting your God-given chance to get out there and perform and minister. I want also to ask you something here that I know has been a tad touchy in interviews before: What are your perspectives on the Christian metal scene regarding ministry, production, general professionalism, and these things versus to some of the same in the secular field?"

"Well," (Rex is thoughtful. I notice he begins a lot of his comments that way...) Rex says, as he leans towards me as though to add extra emphasis to his point he's about to deliver, "I could literally rage about this all night, really, until my blood boiled, and that is in regards to Christian music ministries as a whole, but I think I'll let Scott talk."

I change my attentions to the direction of Scott. With his thick, long, dark, curly hair cascading down in a fashion to make most ladies green with jealousy, he introspectively verbalizes. "I can say a lot about that, but let's rule out the money aspect now right from the start. It's simply not there for the Christian artist. Rather, I want to emphasize what Jesus did. Jesus went, and not only to the synagogue where He read for the people there, but He went also to the sinners and He met them on their terms. He didn't participate in their sins, but He came to them in a way that they could understand. Other people said to Jesus, 'How can you do this? Don't You know what kind of a man he is?' But you see, Jesus saw more than they. He saw ahead. And Jesus has called us to be ambassadors, 'special messengers', you see. As for the Swaggerts and the David Wilkersons and the Billy Grahams, I love 'em, I really do personally, because I've always listened to their ministries. They simply can't reach a certain crowd though, they just don't have the vocabulary, connection, communication, or whatever, and yet God wants to reach those people still. If He can use music, He's going to...and He is. If there wasn't any fruit, then I'd get out of it. But, when you see that fruit, you can't argue with it. It's there. And that's it in a nutshell."

I pause, reflecting on the simplicity of what Scott has said and realizing that this simple concept he has heartfeltdly expressed is the key to so much more effective witnessing that the church today is missing out on. Jesus showed, among other things, that adaptability with people and circumstances is most important when trying to get those people to see the light of the Gospel. One method does not work for all. I share this with the band and they nod with personal understanding. They can relate.

"Rex soon shares some of his thoughts on being a metal missionary. "Some bands have made their bread and butter by going and playing in the bars and clubs. I've done it myself before, and I've seen other Christian bands do it, but frankly, I don't think it works. There may be the isolated cases of people finding salvation through that; God can use all things to His glory, but, as a strategy set down for action, I don't think it's very sound. People go to bars for other reasons than to hear the Gospel preached."

Scott decides to supplement this. "The point is this: God has not called Whitecross to go to bars or whatever, so we'll leave it at that. The one thing we've done very carefully is, when there's any major decisions to be made or whatever,

we've each prayed about it independently before coming together for the final general decision."

"I want to add something else here," states Rex, "and that is regarding the professional standards of a lot of Christian musicians and bands. There's a lot of bad attitudes out there. They're saying, 'Well, I'm doing this for God, so it doesn't matter if it's up to quality standards or not because God will use the ministry instead.' They use that blanket term--'It's a ministry'--and that excuses to them acutely inferior artistry. I believe that the historical precedent has always seen the church and the Christians in art and music set the standard of quality and performance. Look at the classics with Bach and Handel and on down the line. Why is it that in the second half of the twentieth century we have music that a third-grader can do?"

"Just do your best for God," quips Jon.

"Yeah," agrees Scott, "Just do your best for God."

Rex indicates he's not done though. He goes on. "It's also the label's fault," he says. "They don't think big. They think in terms of their limited tunnel vision where they're saying, 'Let's sell just enough to make a quick buck and a profit and then go on to the next one.' That's where the standard isn't challenged enough by those in control. We as musicians are also expected to compete out there with secular album-producing budgets with budgets of our own that are the smallest fraction of those that all other secular counterparts are working with. Good production then is a real problem. It's hard. I know. I've seen the industry from both sides of the fence."

I move on after other tangents are expressed by the group on the same general theme and other topics. "What do you guys do for jobs at this point?" I ask, "They must be pretty flexible situations aren't they?"

Rex responds, "I teach music, specifically guitar." I'm not surprised. This guy has had well above the average Christian musician's music background with training and lessons in violin (9 years), classical piano (5 years), and guitar (10 years). He has a B.A. as well in guitar performance from Northern Illinois. Almost a one-man band!

"Scott, also an accomplished guitarist, adds, "I'm a laboratory technologist. I test coatings that are put inside of your pop cans among other substances."

Mark speaks up too, "I work with computers. I'm a programmer or an operator, a little of both, maybe."

"I'm working in a food store in produce. I'm also going to college," states Jon.

This is all arousing in me a somewhat delicate question, "Are you all pretty committed to the band?"

"Well," reflects Rex, "let's put it this way: we're all committed to the Lord and right now that means Whitecross." (Pretty good answer, huh? Yeah, I liked it too!)

Proceeding on, I ask the band about their backmasking on their latest album. "Why did you do it, and what's being said?" I ask. I wait briefly till the laughter stops and the looks of 'I-knew-this-one-was-coming' cease. "Okay," I interject, "I'll be more specific: What's preceding Nagasake?"

Rex makes a series of strange noises as though to tell me, "That's what's preceding Nagasake" Presently, however he glances at the other guys and asks them, "Well guys, what do you think? Should we tell him? The contest after all is winding this weekend."

Contest? What contest? I hadn't been aware of anything like a contest and I tell the band this.

The band conceded that informing me of the basics was cool, and Rex explained briefly, "If you look at the album closely, you'll notice a lot of little clues and hints throughout it. It was our co-producer's idea, and I just thought it was the greatest! These little clues are written here and there, but they also include some of the backmasking that we've done. If you put all the clues together, you'll find that they are to indicate a master verse that sort of ties it all together entirely. Great, huh? This contest is actually being run on 60 radio stations about the country. You can call in to these and win t-shirts or whatever if you're right. If you're a winner, you are put in a drawing. The final two winners get to come see us in concert here in a few months, I think when we start with Steve Taylor. They'll get backstage passes and all." I bug him further about the actual backmasking itself and the specific message it contains. He finally tells it to me, but I must first turn off my little recorder as he wants to ensure it doesn't accidentally get put into this article. It's a bum deal as I truly have, since that time, forgotten what the special message was. So much for having the privileged "inside scoop!" Anyway, I did jot down the reference for the master verse for those of you who couldn't figure it out before the contest terminated, and for those of you like myself who didn't even know there was a contest to begin with. It's a fitting verse for this band and the events which have transpired to bring them this far. It is Proverbs 3:5. Look it up, and see if you don't agree with me on this.

I glance at my watch once more. Time is fleeting. I need to wrap it

up. But I have saved one of the most important questions for last. I really want to know," I tell the band, "what are those prayer requests that concerned people like myself can bring before our Lord as we seek to uphold you in your music ministry?"

The response is instantaneous and sincere. "Above all else, the very most important thing we need to be doing is discerning the Lord's will and obeying it," Rex states honestly. "If we really do this as we should, then all else falls into place. We want people to pray for us in that we will continue to follow God's will and obey it."

"Finances too are always a concern when we go into something like Whitecross full time," Jon admits. "We know there's going to be rough times, but we just want the Lord's provision in this, really nothing more."

"Anything else?" I ask. Nothing more specific is volunteered, but I jot down two more and tell them to the band. Health. "Yeah," agrees Rex, "that can really be one of the devil's attacks on us. He'll get us any way he can." And finally, for open-minded acceptance by the church and the Christian community. The guys express their support for this prayer request. In their genre of music style, they get a lot of undeserved flak from people coming at the situation misguided and closeminded rather than from a spiritual perspective. (Refer back to Scott's earlier comments on "...seeing fruit..." and see if Matthew 7:16,17 don't add to this...)

We leave the coziness of the coffee and the restaurant and gasp as the bitterly cold winter air claims our exposed body surfaces once more. Driving over to Rex's home, we informally chat there for a few minutes before I reluctantly acknowledge to the band that my wife and I have other engagements that we simply must meet. Rex calls us all in a circle, and putting his arms about my shoulders, he bows his head and leads the group in a final touching prayer, asking God to direct each life represented there as He has willed. I'm moved, but I leave rejoicing! I've not only learned more about Whitecross, but also more about myself, and most importantly my Lord. I'm renewed in Jesus, and in the words of Whitecross's song All I Need, I find refreshing hope: "Now I live each day for Jesus/ For soon He will return/ He's bringing His reward with Him/ Satan, he's going to burn. We will all stand before Him/ On the judgement day/ He promised that He will defend us/ He'll carry us all away. He'll carry us all away/ He'll carry us all away/ He'll carry us all AWAAAAY!!"

Prayer Partners, Heaven's Metal and More

Look for a Heaven's Metal/Intense Records/Regency Music ad in Metal Edge this April.

Sorry for the delay in getting this issue to you. Hopefully, you'll think the improvements in quality made it worth the wait.

Each subscriber to Heaven's Metal has two prayer partners. The way I've arranged that is by taking the name above and below each name on the subscription list and matched them, so that the same people you're praying for have your name also. If you renew your subscription, you'll gain two more prayer partners! If you don't have the names and addresses of your prayer partners (there's a lot of you), write in and I'll send 'em to you.

If you'd like to receive bulks of Heaven's Metal to hand out to friends or at concerts, etc, send 90 cents per issue (minimum of 10).

If you'd like to advertise in Heaven's Metal, or know someone who would, get them in touch with me.

If you'd like to solicit advertising for me, I'd be willing to pay you 15% of each sale. What this would involve is contacting potential advertisers and persuading them to run an ad in Heaven's Metal. I'm open to ads from cola companies to guitar shops. I'd be glad to assist you in this too.

If you know a store that would be open to carrying Heaven's Metal, have the person who orders magazines contact me.

If you'd be willing to make xerox copies of a Heaven's Metal flyer and post it around your town, record stores, etc, I'll send you a master copy.

Heaven's Metal sells Pure Metal Records through the mail. \$7.98 each plus \$1 postage. This is predominantly a service to those who can't find Pure Metal product where you live. Please don't order if you're expecting to receive a new release as soon as it comes out, because I receive the product later than the stores do.

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Saint with John Mahan



The Lord God has turned Gentiles into Saints. That's right, the boys with the controversial album covers are back. This time they will punish our ears with a double guitar attack. John Mahan, who took a break from Saint (And no it wasn't to play black metal. That was a joke of a rumor that went around last Spring.) has rejoined Saint to partner with Dee Harrington, ex-Holy Danger axist, on the guitar chores. The reunion happened after the recording of **Too Late For Living**, so you won't hear the double axe attack on the record, but you should get a chance to hear 'em on their Spring tour, which will include some dates with debut artists Tempest.

They've also just got the go from Pure Metal to record two videos for the new album. With a lot of prayer and the right quality, we may see

Saint on MTV's "Headbanger's Ball" this Spring.

It's been awhile since we heard from Saint in the pages of Heaven's Metal, so the following interview with bassist Richard Lynch was arranged. (Thanks for relaying the message Mick!)

****Tell me about the new album.**

"Too Late For Living. It's a good album. We didn't wimp out. A lot of people have asked the question, 'whether we've wimped out,' or not. No we didn't. We've got two songs on there that are not really ballads. One of 'em is called **On The Street**. It's about a person who is basically backslidden and has maybe thought about committing suicide and realizes that he's got to stop doing that and turn to Jesus and move forward from there. The other one is called **The War Is Over**, which is about how Jesus won the war for us and we don't have to fight

anymore, but yet we still have to fight, you know, in order to maintain on the earth here.

"For the most part, it's pretty heavy stuff. There's an instrumental on it, that Dee did. It's got the traditional Saintly type heavy stuff, kind of a cross between Black Sabbath and Judas Priest. It overall has a Priestly flavor to it, as usual.

"The first song on side one is **Too Late For Living**. It's about your typical American high school kid, whose mom and dad bought him a '67 Chevelle and he goes out and wraps it around a telephone pole and dies. He realizes at this point in time, because he's not saved, that all the things that he worked so hard for and have acquired, have become worthless to him, because he didn't give his life to the Lord.

"The next song is called **Star Pilot**. It's about the Christian walk. We kind of did an allegory of using the spaceman and his shields and what have you, and how, as Christians, we use our bodies as

vehicles or vessels for the Spirit and we all have to armor up all the time and continue walking forward. No matter how hard the fight gets, we have to depend on God.

"The third song is called **The Accuser**, and that's pretty much self-explanatory. It's about the accuser.

"The fourth song is **The Rock**, which was on a demo that went out a couple years ago. Dee played on that originally. A lot of people have that demo. It's basically about keeping your eyes upon the Rock--Jesus. That's followed by **On The Street**, which I already told you about.

"Side two starts off with the instrumental, **The Returning**. It's about guitars. There's a place in the middle there where it says, '\$20 for a pound of wheat, \$20 for three pounds of barley, but still there's no oil or wine.'

"We represent that as the returning of Christ, when He comes back to pick up the church. We're kind of 'pre-trib believers' here. The four and twenty elders yelled out that statement in the book of Revelation in 6:6. Right after that, the false prophet comes in to power...Rightly so, because the next song is titled **The Path**. It's about the false prophet and how he wants to drag all mankind down with him.

"The next song is called **Through The Sky**. It's about how when God comes back through the sky. It's kind of like the 'Manhole Mike' episode on **Time's End**. The guy says, 'I can hear the voices screaming in the blackened night. Feel terror and destruction on the edge of my sight.' It's about the seven bowls of wrath and the plagues that happen. So, what you have is a series on the book of Revelation on side two. That side ends with the song **The War Is Over**, which is heavy, but it's mellow. It's a real good song. Almost everybody likes it. It's wimpy in comparison to **Through The Sky**, by all means, but it's more of the veign maybe of **Through You**--except maybe with a little more class."

**Tell me about the producer, the players and the songwriters.

"I did the majority of the production on this particular record. I had David Lore, the engineer, produce a lot of it as well. He helped pick out a lot of the pitch problems and what have you when you're laying down the tracks. I might be out in the studio, working with Josh on his vocal parts and he could hear it a lot better with his headphones on than I could out there.

"The players are: Dee Harrington--He played all the rhythms and the leads; I played the bass; John Perian, our new drummer, played; and Josh sang. I had my wife and a friend's wife do some backup vocals. The backup vocals are ten times better than on **Time's**

End. A lot of people liked those backup vocals on **Time's End**, those barking dog vocals. I personally was not real thrilled with it, but the songs sounded even worse without 'em, so we went ahead and did 'em.

"Josh wrote **The War Is Over** and he wrote the music to the song **Too Late For Living**. Dee and I did a lot of co-writing, pretty much 50/50 on that. John Mahan wrote the song **The Path**. My brother helped us write **Through The Sky**, **Star Pilot** and **On The Street**. There were five writers on this album and it really shows. It's got a wide variety, compared to just the Lynch/Mahan stuff.

"We haven't really made a whole lot of changes in our musical style. The drumming's more intricate, that's for certain. The lead work is really good. I wouldn't say that Dee's a better guitar player than John. They're pretty much different guitar players from each other. That's about the only difference. We still sound like us. It's still in the Saint veign.

"Most people who are--how would you say it?--a Saint fan, would pick up on it right away, unless it was the song **The War Is Over**. They might not pick up on that, because Josh actually sang the song. He didn't sit there and groan through it or nothing. He does have a voice."

**How do you feel about all the personnel changes you've been through?

"I don't like personnel changes, because everytime you go through a personnel change, you go through a new personality. You have another person that you have to work with. Everyone's got their own ideas about what something should be and what something shouldn't be. The world has the idea that bands are just four buddies who got together and threw it all out there and everybody's making business decisions together and it's an equal thing and everything's just wonderful. It really isn't that way.

"When I select the guys to work and do the material, I never ask 'em to think and that's the first thing I tell 'em. 'I'm asking you to play drums. Don't think. If I ask you to think, then it's okay to do that.' (Imagine all the jokes Saint members are gonna make with Richard after that statement! "Oops! Sorry Richard, I accidentally thought!") I know that sounds almost cold, but it's not that black and white. I'm a really easy guy to work with. I like everybody's opinions. I ask everybody what they think of a certain thing. If they don't like it, I definitely want to know why they don't like it, because their opinion is very valuable to me. If they don't like it, somebody else might not like it and we may have a whole lot of people who don't like it."

**Where do plan on touring this

Spring?

"We're going to do the His Festival. We're looking at playing **The Omni** at Oakland. We're also looking at playing a Sacramento date as well. We may play one other California date. Then we wanna go over and do a Houston and Dallas date. Basically, do the bigger cities throughout the Southern United States, go through Florida and up the East Coast and come back through the Midwest, as many dates as we can do that can be provided for us. We can afford to do a few prisons and stuff like that, but it's going to boil down to the affordability of it all. We all have families and our families have to be able to survive while we're out on the road. We're really not worried about making millions of dollars or nothing like that. If I can break even with my business at home, I'll be happy. I couldn't ask for any more."

Saint is basically going to travel the path that Bloodgood and Stryper have cut, playing where those bands drew well and avoiding those places where they didn't draw. "We know that if we can afford to go into a city and play it, fine. But, if we can't, we're gonna have to move on. I think that, as good stewards with money and as good witnesses, we shouldn't go in and run up a big bill and leave the city and go 'see ya later!' or 'We'll pay ya later. Check's in the mail.'"

"The biggest problem is: you're going out and you have to pay an \$800 bill for each show and 100 show up. That's what it costs us for one show. Plus you've gotta pay for the hall and the promotion, although Refuge is supplying all the posters and stuff for us. We may be able to do a show like that and break even, you never know. If we could pull 150 people, we could probably do it, because it would be just fun to do. If we can break even, I'm happy." **Which songs do you think you'll do videos for?

"We'll probably do one of our wimp songs, which'll be **The War Is Over**, simply for the airplay. It's easier to get airplay when you have a wimpy song. We may do a heavier song or we may do the song **On The Streets**.

"That song, by the way, has the name of Jesus in it. We went ahead and did it this time. I know, in the last interview I did with you, I said I wouldn't do it, because I felt like it was prostitution of the name of the Lord. I strongly feel that way, even still...if I did it for the purpose of making money. I didn't do it for that reason. I felt the song needed it or I wouldn't have done it. I refuse to just make a million 'Jesus loves me. This I know' songs, just so that Christians will go out and buy the record. I'd rather not play at all rather than do that."

**What's God been telling you lately?

"He's been telling me to keep my eyes on Him all the time, continuously. Don't take 'em off. I really feel the urge to go out and play a lot. That's kind of a fight between me and the Spirit as well. For the most part, He's concerned about, at least with me, He's more concerned that I know Him and I do His will and I keep my life as clean as possible so that I can be an example to people. It hasn't been so much of a 'go out and play. Go out and play. Metal, metal, metal!' That's almost secondary. As a matter of fact, it is secondary! Actually, it's thirdly, 'cause I've got my family that I've got to look out for as well."

**What do you think is the future of both Christian and secular metal? Why?

"I think that it's really becoming a rising force. It's becoming very powerful, very popular more and more each year. We are, and I've noticed the other groups, BC, Messiah Prophet and all the other groups, are growing larger and larger each year. People are accepting it more and more. The dark metal is as popular as ever, obviously. I think it'll remain popular, because evil lurks the earth continuously. I think that more people are becoming open to the positive message that's coming out of the Christian bands, because they don't wanna hear the evils of the other bands, like Slayer and whoever. Why? Because the end of the world is just about to happen."

"There's a lot of very excellent mainstream people out there. You just can't deny the fact that a lot of these artists that are really big time are great. They're good songwriters."

"I think all the bands out in the Christian market, that I hear, have been influenced a lot by the mainstream. I think rightly so, as well. Simply because, as Christian people, I don't think we're ever gonna set a trend, you know what I mean? Because the world is going to look at worldly things. The ungodly are gonna look at the godly and say, 'Huh! I don't wanna have anything to do with that!' That's why we have to go to their level. We have to become a Jew to a Jew and a Gentile to a Gentile within the laws of Christ. We have to go to them, because they're certainly not going to come to us. It's been that way forever, so I don't think it's going to change now. Besides that, I think that all the music's that to be done has been done...unless they come up with some sort of new synthesizer or something."

**What did you learn from your experience with Morada and what kind of advice would you give new bands about record labels and contracts?

"My first advice is to have a great attorney, not just your hometown guy. Get somebody who is a music attorney. There's quite a few

of 'em out there. They're quite expensive, but they're worth every penny."

"The thing with Morada. I went into the Morada thing knowing I was gonna probably get ripped-off, but I also went in there knowing I was gonna get exposure. We had \$2,000. maximum wrapped up in the **Warriors Of The Son** project, including the artwork, the cover and everything. We handed it over to them. There was very little money involved with it and I expected no money back, which we never got any back. It did allow us to get national recognition and exposure. We were doing that on our own label as well, but they did it a lot faster than we could've done. So, there was a pro and a con to that scenerio."

"I would never do it again...well, I might do it again. You never know. I've even suggested it to other bands. 'If you can't get a label. If it's absolutely hopeless and you wanna go out and do it and you can get a one record contract, just do it. Just expect to get ripped off and do it with that thought in mind. Then you'd never have a complaint."

"I catch myself complaining, 'those guys at Morada ripped me off,' and then I have to think back to 'well, I knew I was gonna get ripped off, and now I'm crying about it. Who's fault was it? It was my own fault."

"The main thing I learned, though, is: get an attorney. They'll take care of ya."

**Is the rapture gonna happen this year?

"No man knows. It might. I've heard it all, as far as prophecy is concerned. Israel became a nation in 1948 and, if that generation is going to see the return of Christ, then it's gonna happen anytime, because that generation is about shot."

"In all seriousness, if the Lord doesn't come back this year, maybe He'll come back next year. Maybe we'll go out on the highway and get instantaneously raptured via a car accident. In my opinion, that's basically all it is. People look to the rapture as an escape from death, but the fact is it's from the body we go even in the rapture. All of a sudden you're gonna weird out and you're gonna go, 'What's goin' on?' Your nature's gonna say, 'Something's happening to you. You're freaking out. Oh no.' I'm real familiar with that from my early days past with drug abuse and what have you. So, I relate to that thing very well. Any more it doesn't bother me, as far as thinking about death, because I know I'm going to go to heaven. I know what's ahead. I know what's in store. That's all the rapture is. If the commies blow us off the face of the earth with nukes, you've been raptured buddy! You're in heaven! It's not necessarily the prophetic

rapture itself, but it's the same thing, the same result. I believe the rapture will happen before World War III happens, though. I think it's very biblical."

**How does it feel to know you're about to sew up the "Heaviest Band Award" in the Heaven's Metal Reader's Poll?

"I don't know how to take that, cause I don't think we are. Great! How can you describe something like that? We've always wanted to be the heaviest band...But when you've got bands out there like Deliverance--those guys are darn heavy, but you're dealing with thrash there. We just can't compete with that speed metal stuff, 'cause we're not a thrash band. I guess the way you'd have to do that is categorize the different metals. We wouldn't want to compete with Stryper either. I don't consider them, and I don't think they consider themselves, as a metal band--at least no in the same vein of metal as I consider ourselves. I think that it's great though."

**What would you like to say to your fans?

"Read your Bible, because it's important to know the Word of God, to know what He wants and to know what He wants you to do. That's the number one most important thing. Before you play your record, no matter what band it happens to be, ask yourself, 'Did I read my Bible and spend time with the Lord today?' That's what I would like to say."

"All those lyrics and all those albums, that's just a poor excuse for these people not to read their Bibles. They want us to read it for 'em and blast off the truth. It's great to be able to have the songs and the music and it's fun to rock out, but it's not a full diet. That's like only eatin' red meat and not having any potatoes and beans and milk. All of those are important...even the milk is important, even for us ancient Christian people."

**How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for ya?

"Continuously."

"We need prayer in the areas of when we go out on the road and do this tour, if it comes to pass. Particularly, to be able to draw in and pay the bills. That's all we really care about, is to pay the bills."

**Did anything interesting happen during the lawsuit by Armored Saint?

"That wasn't a lawsuit, that was a joke! Basically, all that ended up being was a letter from Chrysalis Records, their attorney, saying that we were infringing on their band, Armored Saint's right to use the name. All that was, mainly, was just a big scam for free publicity. Obviously, the more publicity it got, the more people could distinguish the two bands. So, it basically diffused itself."



Saint with Dee Harrington on guitar

"My attorney, he got the letter and he laughed his head off. He said, 'Tell 'em to call me,' and I never heard another thing of it. I heard it on the 'Metal Shop' and some other things, so they got what they wanted--publicity...for a band at that time that was pretty much dying. They needed the publicity and they could pick on us, 'cause we were chartin' at the time. That was my opinion of the whole episode."

****Can Christians become defeated and prisoners in the promised land?**

"Yeah, I think so. I don't think a Christian can become defeated and go to hell, because they wouldn't be a Christian anymore--at least in the true sense of being born again. It's awful hard to become an 'un-Christian', you know what I mean? Everytime I stumble around, and I've had my rollercoaster rides in life, I think everybody has...everytime I stumble and fall on my face, the Lord has always been very prompt to stick His hand out there and pick me up. It's just that simple. Everytime. It's always been without condemnation. On my part there was grief, but on His part, I could always feel that big and shiny smile: 'Here you go, Rich. Get up and let's continue on. I'm not gonna hold you accountable for these things you've done. I'm willing to forgive you.' There was never a trial period. He didn't put me on parole. He said, 'So let's move forward and do it. Go out there and tell people about me, 'cause that's what I want you to do.'"

****What would you like to preach to people that are?**

"That are living a life of Christianity, but yet are kind of stuck?"

****Yeah.**

"It's hard for me to preach to people when I've got my own logs in my own eyes. I would think that the only thing you could do for someone like that is to put on a metal album, you know (laughter).

"I would think that most of the people that are in that situation are people that've become comfortable in church and they go there for the social purposes of going to church. The Lord can work miracles with anybody. If a person is like that, it's hard to see that within one's self. I would suggest that the people surrounding them should maybe get them involved with Christian activities. Go camping and fishing and stuff like that and have fun, instead of sittin' around and playing Bible trivia and seein' who knows the most about that and spend your dedicated time to the Lord dedicating your time to the Lord, and then have some time for fun and what have you. I think that people can grow that way with each other. I don't think that everybody's time should be spent sitting around talking about God all the time. I know that some people might be offended by that statement,

but I certainly like to have fun. When I'm waterskiing, I'm thinking about waterskiing at that particular moment in time and how bad it's gonna hurt when I fall down. I think that there's a big responsibility to look after everybody in that sense, especially within the Christian community. If we see somebody's having a hard time, we don't want to say, 'Hey, you're having a hard time. Go away!' We wanna say, 'Hey, you're having a hard time in this area. Let me pray for you. Let me help you out. Let's go do something together.' Find someone you can relate to. There's gotta be a relationship, too."

Richard talked some about the way a lot of Christian musicians get treated like preachers when they're not necessarily called to be preachers. "Being a musician doesn't necessarily give us the right to go out and preach, 'cause God chooses His preachers and Timothy is very clear that God chooses the ones. These people are ordained and they're anointed. They know the right things to say at the right time, because they're led of the Spirit. They've gone through the training and they've basically done what they're supposed to do to be in that position.

"Just because I'm a musician, should I stand on a pedestal and preach at people? Heck, I might be wrong. And if I'm wrong...that's a bummer, 'cause there's lots of people who listen. I can be pretty secure in writing lyrics and songs, because I can pretty much go to the Bible and pick out things and themes and I can pretty much take and make allegories and analogies, like **Star Pilot** for instance. I can make an analogy with that and make it stick. I can back it up Biblically. As far as going out and preaching the Word of God as an anointed, chosen evangelist, no. God never told me to be an evangelist. I'm a musician. I play bass in a band called Saint. That's the furthest it goes, as far as evangelism or preaching. I don't have the right to do it, because God didn't give me that right. That may be a let down to some people, but at least I'm telling the truth about it.

"I've heard a lot of bands out there start preaching and it's pretty bad."



Metal Tracks

Vengeance has been signed with Intense Records (Yes, the band's record deal with Bottomline Records fell through). Caesar Kalinowski, President of Intense, went to L.A. to sign 'em. While he was there, he got to see 'em play live. He said the band came on and there was so much fog, you couldn't see any of 'em on stage. After they jammed awhile, the fog cleared enough to see a big cross in the background with an actor on it who was made up to really look like Jesus, bleeding on the cross. "It was the most incredible opening for a show I've ever seen," says Caesar. Their music is hot! There's a scream at the end of **Beheaded** that, as Caesar put it, "sounds like Roger Martin (lead vocalist) asked everyone in the band to yank on his eyelids all at once!" It's a blood-curdling scream that blows away anything ever recorded for a horror movie. Their album, due out June 1st, will roll some heads, that's for sure. **Vengeance** is slated to play **Cornerstone '88**. Be there! Also big Intense news is that **Enigma** has signed to distribute their product! That means **Vengeance**, **Sacred Warrior**, **Dual Edge** and **Flock 14** product will be distributed in the secular market.

Eternal Ryte has completed a new, professional demo tape to be shopped around by its producer.

Gardian will release their debut vinyl on **Enigma** this June with a whole new image and all new material.

Neon Cross has just signed a record contract with Regency Music, who released the California Metal album and distributes **Trytan**, **Malachia** and **Contagious**. They're also looking very closely at **Deliverance** and **John and Dino Elefante's Mastodon** for full-length album releases.

Michael Duane Taylor has written three songs called **The Devil's Got Cocaine** (both a metal and blues version), **New Connection**, and **The Only Answer Is His**. Pretty good stuff. Anyone interested in distributing it or any band interested in recording it could contact Michael @ 7811 La Cosa, Dallas TX 75248.

Hit Parader Magazine, America's leading secular heavy metal music magazine, is very close to launching **Hit Parader Records**. The editors are looking to sign four to eight up and coming acts, put them in the recording studio and release the albums before the end of 1988. A Christian band from the UK is among the acts already being heavily considered. Demos and press kits should be sent to the editor, Andy Secher, Hit Parader, 441 Lexington Ave, Suite 808, New York NY 10017. Christian artists might do well to also contact Associate Editor Charley Crespo, who is a Christian, and a reader of Heaven's Metal.

One Bad Pig will be releasing a full-length recording soon. Look for a release on cassette this summer.

Cornerstone '88 is gearing up for a big talent search contest. It's gonna be co-sponsored by Graceland, and the grand prize winner will receive a national recording contract with Graceland. Confirmed acts for this year's fest are: REZ; Mylon Lefevre & Broken Heart; Bloodgood; Da; The Choir; BeBe & CeCe Winan; Charlie Peacock; Degarmo & Key; Geoff Moore; Whitecross; Margaret Becker; The Awakening; Michael Peace; Vengeance; Flock 14; Level Heads; Crucified; The Lead; and others!

Believer, a thrash band from Pennsylvania, has been making some music. Someone played one of their songs on the radio and a kid called in and asked, "Where'd you get the new Slayer album?" Their sound is somewhat of a mixture of Slayer and Stryper. Strange huh? One song, called **IYF**, is dedicated to Satan. It is inspired by the notion that Satan thought he found a style of music that Christians couldn't play: thrash. This song instrumentally makes the statement, "We can play this too." Believer is going to open for Bride in April.

Speaking of **Bride**, they're a finalist in Kentucky's Battle of the Bands. Bride's gonna have two "kinda thrash" songs on their new LP, **Live To Die**, two commercial numbers, two rock and roll blues songs and a couple songs that musicians will appreciate. It's due out in May. The two thrashy-type tunes are **Out For Blood** and **Here Comes The Bride**. You can order gardens from Bride for \$2, Show No Mercy t-shirts \$8, albums \$8.50, group photos for \$2, individual 5x7's for \$1, buttons \$1.50, PG-13 tapes \$4, Monkey See Monkey Do \$4.

Last minute Whitecross response to Reader's poll results: "We really appreciate the readers thinking that highly of us. We'll try not to disappoint 'em."

They're gonna be aired on a new NBC show called "Fast Forward", which will be test marketed in New York on February 27th. If it does well in the test market, which goes into 13 million homes, it will air nationally soon after. The episode with Whitecross features a five-minute clip of the band in the studio and has an interview.

The four-song EP due out soon will feature **Enough Is Enough** and **No Way I'm Goin' Down** from the first album, plus two new ones: **Love On The Line**, a metal tune with a real strong blues influence, and **I Believe**, which is a novelty song for Whitecross. It's a blues number and Rex sings lead. They played it at Cornerstone and at other live gigs and the audience goes nuts, so they decided to put it on the EP.



Ken Tamplin

Frontline is releasing a commercial/ Bon Jovi type metal album in late March. It's a band called **Shout!**, which features Idle Cure's guitarist, Chuck King and Ken Tamplin (Sammy Hagar's cousin) from LA's Joshua.

Idle Cure just got back from Europe. They toured over there about the same time as Bloodgood. It went really well.

Calvary Chapel is contemplating forming another gospel label, according to Darrell Mansfield.

Martyr is a killer thrash band from Northern California. Write 'em and encourage 'em @ 835 N. Division, Porterville CA 93257.

The second annual **His Festival** will be a two-day event on April 9th-10th in Fontana CA. It's called His II and will be held in Fontana's High School Auditorium. Some of the bands booked for the first day are: Bride; Holy Right; Contagious; Eternal Rytte; First Aid; Spectra; Full Armor; and Redeemer. Day two features: Saint; Malachia; Deliverance; Witness; H.E.R.O.; Touche Touche; and Jordan. More bands will be booked before the festival. If you'd like more information, call (714) 351-9594.

First Strike has recorded five new songs to shop to labels. The songs are: **Living Without You**, which is "a sobering look at modern times"; **Tell Me**, "a kicking rock anthem"; **Take A Chance On Love**, "a melodic ballad"; **Running**, "a driving dance-rock"; and **Hold You**, "a bluesy love song". They are having a contest to name this new tape. The winner will receive a copy of the new tape, which is not yet for sale. Send entry to: First Strike, 4617 McDonald Dr, Sacramento CA 95821.

Out of Raleigh, North Carolina comes **Majesty** with a tape called **Rock The Hell Out Of You**. Look for more info in Heaven's Metal.

From Ontario, Canada comes **Aaron**. If you'd like to write this band, who say they sound like Ratt or Van Halen, write: Aaron, 572 Chantenay Dr, Mississauga, Ontario, L5A-1G2, Canada.

Bloodgood, rock's finest golfers, was on live tv in Edmonton, January 25th. They're spending February in pre-production before they head to Europe for 6 dates in Germany this March. They'll probably go into the studio in April or May and release their third album in June. Pray that they get a good producer.

A girl from Springfield, Missouri heard **Alone In Suicide** and told Michael and Mark that she was gonna kill herself, but God reached her through that song.

Christian Rock Promotions are willing to videotape and interview bands coming through the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. They have access to a two and three cam studio. They need three weeks advance notice and the opportunities yours. Write Terry L. Bishop @ PO Box 13843, Roseville MN 55113.

Speaking of tv studios, Paradox and I just finished taping **Heaven's Metal Video Magazine**. Paradox lip-synched four songs from their **Ruler** tape: **Singin' All Night**; **We Are The Temple**; **You Must Be Saved**; and **Long Live The King**. They were all decked out and had all their equipment set up. I was in a tuxedo and interviewed them American Bandstand style. It was a lot of fun. Wouldn't it be great to do a show like that regularly? We'll see what God has in mind...

A suggestion to bands: Most large cities have a public access tv station that is pretty easy to get on. Give it a shot!

Here's an official Heaven's Metal endorsement: I think everyone who reads Heaven's Metal ought to read **White Throne**. (And vice-versa). Both of these magazines are two parts of the body of Christ that fit very well together. We balance each other out. What info you don't get in Heaven's Metal, you'll probably get in **White Throne** (and vice-versa). It's a hot mag!

Message to bands: Go out there and play! It may not happen with the Christian concert scene. Don't wait for the flock to support you, step out into hell and play and preach to the heathen. (I'm not saying don't go out without a covering. I'm saying, "Don't try to be real popular in the Christian market before you play before the unsaved. Step out.")

Sovereign Child is a Christian thrash band from Glendale, Arizona. They play "bold, original, headbanging, Godly thrash music. Christians who were (or pagans who are) into Metallica, Megadeth, Slayer, Possessed, etc. will like our

tunes. Anybody who is into God (or needs God) will love our message. We thrash for the One Who got thrashed." Sovereign Child, 4636 W. Morten, Glendale AZ 85301.

Deliverance t-shirts and "Long-Hairs For Christ" t-shirts are \$10. Write Long-Hairs For Christ, 1436 Hollywood Way #C, Burbank CA 91505.

Messenger is a Christian metal band from Ohio who says they play a Van Halen-ish style metal. They're reaching out in their area through live gigs in their area and plan on releasing an album called **Turn Or Burn** very soon. Their address is: 340 Linden Ave, Miamisburg OH 45342.

Ascension, out of Chicago's suburbs, rocks with a flair for pop. It's too full of guitars for American Bandstand, but it's too full of keyboards and light melodies to satisfy a metalhead's daily musical requirements. It's almost as hard as Whiteheart's **Don't Wait For The Movie**, which really cooks in places. Ascension was the creation of one John Schlitt. John wanted to form a Christian band after leaving Head East, and this was it. As you know, Schlitt fronts Petra now. This version of Ascension is after Schlitt's departure. You can get in touch with them and request their demo tape by writing Rory Kling @ Rt. 2 Box 553, The Plains VA 22171.

Ezra, I hear, is an explosive thrash metal band from the Denver area. You can reach them by writing Bibi McGill, 5535 E. 1st Ave, Denver CO 80220.

Abortion Is Murder! Help stop it by showing pictures of aborted babies. Nothing hurts the pro-abortion movement like factual pictures. The First Amendment gives you this right.

R.E.X. Records, who debuted Trytan, have come close to reaching a deal with Word for distribution on the upcoming **Rage Of Angels** release.

Albuquerque's **Rapture** is working on new material. Look for an album in the future.

Laine is a talented young man from Florida. He incorporates a lot of influences and experience into his creative and energetic music. Mix a strong voice with funk, metal, blues and Southern rock and you get an idea of what he sounds like on his solo tape. His band, **Blind Beggar**, takes a harder edge to their music.

He's got a song called **Temptation** that is powerful! Ow! It smokes.

Laine tells me his latest gig went off great. His music has a tremendous commercial appeal. His varied influences create a good blend.

I like his attitude about non-compromising lyrics and ministry: "Let the world cross over to you."

Write Laine at 620 Bonnie Dr, Lakeland FL 33803.

Check out the January issue of **CCM**. It features a three page article on Christian heavy metal.



Peter Carlsson of Jerusalem

Jerusalem's **Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent** is about to be picked up and distributed by Refuge Music.

Pray for **Lance Keltner**. Lance, who sang for Ian Ripper, Follower and now for the Lance Keltner Band, was interviewed in Volume I #2 of Heaven's Metal. He recently played on the same bill with The Paul Q-Pek Band at a local bar and said some terrible things about accepting Pee Wee Herman as his personal savior and having sodomy with the devil. Let's pray for a restoration of his relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Out of Memphis comes **Victory**, (1 John 5:4,5). Their address is PO Box 752171, Memphis TN 38175-2171.

Out of San Antonio emerges **Boanerges** (Great pun, huh?). They have recorded a thrash metal tape in a four-track studio. The production, of course, is a bit lacking; but what's new? They sport a female singer, Mandy Holder, which creates similarities with some of The Lead's songs. Boanerges is currently looking for a bass player, so they can perform live. You can order their tape, **Battle Mind**, for \$5. Write to: PO Box 199, Adkins TX 78107.

Paradox has just added a new rhythm guitarist, filling the spot that John Vidaurri left. His name is Timothy Harris, who was playing for Roxalt the last few months before Ray Ronzoni moved back to San Antonio to rejoin Roxalt.

Barren Cross Concert Dates

Feb 25 - San Luis Obispo CA
Feb 26 - San Jose CA
Feb 27 - Stockton CA
Feb 28 - Oakland CA
Mar 4 - Los Angeles
Mar 5 - Riverside
Mar 22 - West Monroe IN
Mar 24 - Decatur IL
Mar 25 - Milwaukee WI
Mar 26 - Minneapolis MN
Apr 5 - Flint MI
Apr 7 - Grand Rapids MI
Apr 8 - Chicago IL
Apr 9 - Detroit MI
Apr 14 - Ft. Wayne IN

Dates and places are subject to change!!!



Boanerges

Sacred Warrior

Interview by Bob Hopkins

This band is hot. Bob sent me a copy of some of their songs last Spring and I flipped! They have a very heavy and dramatic sound. I knew they would be signed sooner or later. Well, the later has arrived, as Intense Records has signed Sacred Warrior.

Their albums should be absolutely dynamite, because Caesar Kalinowski, President of Intense and the producer of the smokin' Whitecross album, will be able to spend lots of time working closely with this band (Both the record company and the band are based out of Chicago).

I've heard some of the songs that Caesar has mixed for 'em and they're hotter than ever! This stuff is hea-vee! They're about as heavy as Deliverance, and that's heavy!

Bob caught up with the band this November for the following interview.

****Tell us about the history of Sacred Warrior.**

"A few of us were together in a band called Nomad," tells guitarist Bruce Swift. "We played the circuit, covering all the secular garbage like Maiden, etc. We were into drugs. I had a painting job and the boss turned me on to Jesus one day.

"I told the guys in the band that, 'we need to sing to glorify God, 'cause I really felt Him with the Spirit now.' In 1 Thessalonians chapter one, God says He not only wants to come to us with His Word, but with Spirit and power and deep conviction through the Holy Spirit. I changed that night. I shared with the guys and they didn't understand. I had to back out of the band. The guys went on into music and it hurt. I trusted in Christ. I said, 'Lord, bring 'em.'

"Then I went and started witnessin' to Tony. The next thing you know, I could see Tony comin'. I just prayed for him and prayed for him. The next thing you know--God answers prayer man--Tony started tellin' me that the band wasn't workin'. I was rejoicing, because I wanted to be in a band with 'em. It was my goal, but I didn't put him before Christ. Christ will be first and if He brings 'em, He brings 'em. He did and the next thing we went to Ray.

"Ray used to tell us, 'If you're gonna talk to me about Jesus, get out of my house, man. I love you guys, but I don't want your Jesus.' A month later the guy's on his knees prayin' to Jesus. God is powerful, man. He came with the power.

"We had a few problems there. After we accepted Christ, we went through a year of backsliding. It was good, because some Christians will backslide and find their life in Christ. Some won't and they

don't need to (backslide). I became overcome by the world again and it just took over. As Jesus said in Matthew, the demons will come back seven times more fierce and wicked. They did to all of us and brought out a core between me and Ray, but Christ eventually brought us back together a few months later. We started writing music again and glorifying God."

The band started prayin' for a bass player and God answered their prayer at a Bible study. "Steve comes trottin' through the Bible study and we all go, 'Ahh! He looks like Maiden's bass player!'"

"I'd been playin' Christian music in Texas for the last four and a half years, says bassist Steve Watkins. "God called me back to Chicago and, I believe, to do a ministry. I heard of this Bible study through the friend of a friend of a friend. I thought, 'Ah, I'll go check it out this Tuesday. God just worked it out that those guys were prayin' for a bass player and then God drew me to the Bible study that they went to the same night to answer that prayer."

"The neat thing about that was," says Bruce, "that, although he looked like the bass player for Maiden, he didn't play bass. He played guitar. We all got bummed out."

"All along, though, I believe the Lord was gettin' me ready to play bass. I started off on bass, switched to guitar, then I switched back to bass, because the first Christian band I was in needed a bass player. They're hard to come by, or somethin'."

"He came in here," says lead vocalist Ray Powell, "and we let him hear the tape. He liked it, but said, 'No. I wanna be a guitarist. I don't wanna play bass.' We kind of drilled him for a while. 'C'mon! Give it a try.'

"He's like, 'No. I wanna be a guitarist. I wanna be a guitarist.' It was 'me, me, me. This is what I want.'

"He went home and he came back the next time and said, 'Dudes! Guess what? I went home that night and the Lord spoke to me.' He said he was being selfish. He wanted to be in a ministry, but he wanted to do it his way. He said he hadn't really opened himself up to hear what God wanted him to do. He prayed about it and the Lord laid it on his heart and asked him, 'Do you wanna play guitar or do what I want you to do?' He decided to play bass guitar.

"All too often we try doin' what we wanna do and we don't really open up to the Spirit of God and really listen to what He wants us to do. That causes problems in a lot of areas in our lives."

"Let Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, not my will," says Bruce.

"It's not rock and roll and then

God," adds drummer Tony Valespis.

They recently acquired a house, "A real blessing," says Ray, and they've remodeled the basement to become a rehearsal studio.

"I called Rick," continues Ray, "a guy who used to do security at our gigs when I was in a secular band. He used to always want to jam with us. Well, we were all having a Bible study and I called him and said, 'Rick, come one over. We're having an open jam session and we're going to get into the Word a little bit.'

"He didn't know what that was, but he came over. He brought his keyboards. He was all hyped up. He walks in and there's 23 people in this circle, talkin' about God. It was great. He stood there by the door with a sob face. He was listening really deep. He'd been backslidden for 13 years. He used to do security with a lot of bands, like The Rolling Stones, and did a lot of drugs. That night he was here, in some praise and worship. We studied the Word and had lots of prayer.

"That night he went home. He couldn't sleep that whole night. The Lord really convicted him. At five o'clock in the morning he got down on his knees and just rededicated his life to the Lord.

"We were kind of skeptical at first, 'cause we thought that maybe he was doin' it it because he wanted to be involved with this band. Everytime I had seen him, he said he wanted to be involved in the band. We really didn't want a keyboard player regardless, but we opened the doors to him as a brother in Christ and shared love with him. We began to see the reality in his walk. He was a three-month old Christian and we saw the growth. We talked about using him in a couple songs for intros. Again, it came down to what we wanted, instead of what God wanted. We said, 'We'll let you play intros on a couple songs for us.' We didn't want a keyboard player.

"The Lord had different plans for us. Eventually, the Lord spoke to us. 'Here's a guy who wants to serve the Lord whole-heartedly and we were kind of restraining that,' because we wanted to just use him a little bit rather than full time."

"He wasn't seeking our band so much," explains Bruce. "He had a few other musicians around the neighborhood that he really wanted to get in a band with. They had Christian backgrounds and they came to the Bible study with him a few times. They weren't doin' it though. They were just worried of losin' him.

"He came and came, but I kept sensin' the Spirit. I didn't want a keyboard player either. I didn't think it fit the heavy metal act. The next thing you know, he missed a practice and we were depressed without it. We missed it."

Since then, the band's been together 11 months. They've opened for Whitecross and played at a few high schools and colleges. "We've seen people dedicate their lives to the Lord at the shows," says Ray.

"We did a backyard show out here," says Steve, "and we did like a Jericho walk in the yard. Nine people gave their lives to Jesus that night."

They're also doin' some club dates in Chicago. "I think God is leading us in that direction now," says Tony. "We try to be Christ-like. Christ would go where the sinners are at."

"Who knows? He may use us for something bigger, but for now we're just gonna follow His Spirit where He's leading us."

Most of their shows in their area have been free ones, which are free for everyone except the band. "Right now we're not lookin' into it for the money," says Ray. "If the Lord wants to use us as a band that's just gonna do weekend shows and not make money, we're open to that, 'cause that would be His will for us. We feel that, if the Lord wants us to quit our jobs and go out in the field full time, that's what we're gonna do. But, we're not gonna go cold turkey and try to do what we want... 'til we feel totally led. Not until the Lord says, 'Okay, let's go now.' We're just seeking the Lord on that."

**What would you like to say to the people who are going to be reading this magazine. They're gonna be prayin' for you guys and thinkin' about ya.

"I really think that everyone reading this article," exhorts Ray... "I challenge 'em to read the Word. Stay in the Word and stay in prayer a lot. Make a stand for Christ, no matter what it takes."

"Sometimes, under peer pressure, we're like, 'Umm. I can't do this. What'll my friends think?' and stuff like that. I challenge 'em to go out there and spend 30 minutes a day readin' the Word and prayin'. They'll begin to see lives changed."

"There's a lot of lukewarm ministries out there," says Steve. "God loves all the lukewarm ministers, but He hates the sin. His wrath is comin'. God needs an army out there. He needs soldiers under command. He doesn't need guys gettin' defeated. He needs guys to win the battle. If He doesn't get the guys that win the battle, the music's not gonna be anointed and blessed."

"What God will do, is He'll anoint the music and bless it in His glory. I just pray that everyone out there that's lukewarm... get on fire and fix your mind on Christ Jesus, instead of to the world and what kind of glory they're gonna get from people. They're gonna give the glory to Jesus. He's the One that deserves it."



Signing the contract with Intense Records at Caesar's Graceland Christmas Party.

Photo by Bob Hopkins

Bruce wraps up the interview in his trust that "Christ will bring us out there as His timing goes and we'll get to share this music. It's heavy. It'll fit Heaven's Metal fine. 'Heaven's Metal' says a lot. The first word is heaven. Let's keep it that way. Our first album, I believe, is going to be called 'The Heaven's Are Calling' That's what we're talkin' about. He's comin'. Praise God!

"The doors are open for anyone to write us with any problems. If we can help pray with 'em, we'll be more than glad to. Christ never closed the door on anyone. We feel that it's the same way here. The doors are open. Feel free to write, come over, call, whatever you have to."

"If there's any curiosities or any interests, you can call my number at (312) 843-1028. You can talk to me and I can relate to any of the other guys."

If you'd like to write to Sacred Warrior, their address is: PO Box 88773, Carol Stream IL 60188.

Dear Heaven's Metal Reader,

By Keith Wells (Of Roxalt)

I really enjoy Metal Music (the Jesus kind, of course) but I have a problem. It seems that some of the new "Christian" metal bands that are putting out demos now think that they must cuss in order to get their message through. They write lyrics such as "Satan Sucks" and "the One who kicks Satan's ass" and some other choice quotations I won't

bring myself to type. Both of the examples mentioned above are from bands in California, the names of which I will not disclose. My motive for bringing this to your attention is not to tear down the ministries of these bands, but to edify my brothers in Christ and to lovingly rebuke them. It seems that these and other bands have taken Stryper's To Hell With The Devil concept just a bit too far (beyond the bounds of good taste). Please read the following scripture verses and let the Lord lead you through His Word. I really love you guys a lot and I understand that you are angry at Satan, but we don't need to use coarse language to beat him at his own game.

Colossians 4:6 **Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.**

Titus 2:8 **and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed, because they have nothing bad to say about us.**

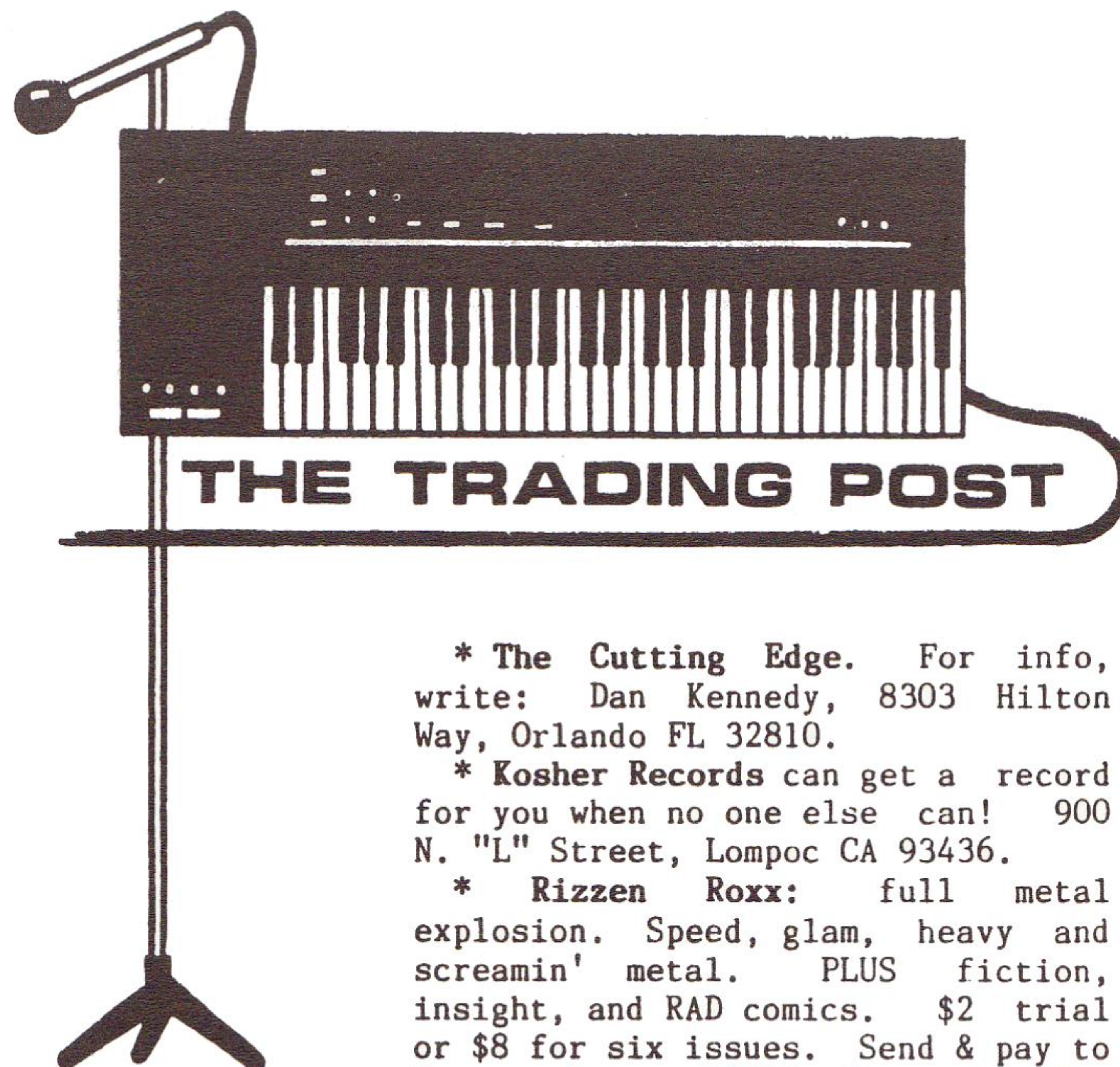
Ephesians 5:4 **Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.**

Philippians 4:8 **Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.**

1 Thessalonians 5:22 **Avoid every kind of evil.**

1 Peter 4:11 **If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and power for ever and ever. Amen.**

One more problem I have with the current state of Christian Metal is this: I am hearing of sexual immorality in some of the Christian Bands. brothers, these things ought not be!! Sex outside the bonds of marriage is wrong!! If you are in a band and you cannot handle the temptations of the road, then get out of Rock and Roll!!! Don't drag the name of our Lord through the mud. Please don't prove the critics right!!! Don't let Satan win the fight!!! Let's keep our Rock clean!!! Yes, let's do it right or not do it at all!!! If God is going to continue to bless Christian Music Ministries then we are going to have to keep our motives and our actions pure. Please read these next few verses and let God apply them to



your life. Please don't take this letter as a declaration of my self-righteousness; I struggle with the flesh everyday just like you.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

1 Thessalonians 4:3 It is God's will that you be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.

Proverbs 5:1-7 My son, pay attention to my wisdom, listen well to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. For the lips of an adulteress drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths are crooked, but she knows it not. Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.

Want to read more interviews with Stryper, Holy Soldier & Bloodgood? **Heaven's Metal** is the magazine for you! Each issue features the latest interviews, news and reviews of these and hundreds of other Christian-metal bands. For a one-year subscription (6 issues), send \$6 to:

Heaven's Metal
902 Romeria Dr. Ste. 107
Austin, TX 78757
Curious? Send \$1 for a sample issue.

* **The Cutting Edge.** For info, write: Dan Kennedy, 8303 Hilton Way, Orlando FL 32810.

* **Kosher Records** can get a record for you when no one else can! 900 N. "L" Street, Lompoc CA 93436.

* **Rizzen Roxx:** full metal explosion. Speed, glam, heavy and screamin' metal. PLUS fiction, insight, and RAD comics. \$2 trial or \$8 for six issues. Send & pay to Rizzen Roxx, 10202 Tamarack Dr, Vienna VA 22180.

* **White Throne** is an underground mag covering Christian heavy metal. Issue #3 is now out, featuring 36 full-size pages of: News; LP/demo reviews; interviews; (Neon Cross, Crossforce, Bride, Vengeance) and more. Send \$2 to: White Throne, PO Box 20577, Dept. Z, Castro Valley CA 94546.

* **The Burning Bush.** c/o Jason Bauman, Route #1, Mineral Point WI 53565. Issues of this publication include interviews, reviews, and news on all types of Christian rock (new-wave, punk and metal). It is a bi-monthly mag and is \$3 per 6-issue term. Checks and Money Orders payable to Jason Bauman.

* **Light Attack,** Hard rock and white metal fanzine in German looks for bios, press releases, photos and records/tapes. Send to: Light Attack, c/o Urs Staedeli, Haltingerstr. 23, CH-4057 Basel, Switzerland.

* **'Blood Sacrifice - Jesus Metal War!'**, is calling bands to contribute bios, photos and salvation testimonies by band members for future issues. If you want your music being heard in Germany, Switzerland and Austria, send your demos for review! Anything being sent in will be reviewed and advertised for! Send your stuff to (Air Mail, pls.): "Heaven's Attack!" (Metal Mission), PO Box 22, 8501 Burgthann 1, W. Germany. All contributing bands will receive free Air Mail subscriptions to "Blood Sacrifice!"

* **R.O.C.K.I.N. - Rock Of Christ The King International.** Covers the whole spectrum of today's God rock. Guaranteed to raise a religious eyebrow or two! Sample issue: \$1.50. Subscriptions: 6 issues - \$6; 12 issues - \$11. Write checks to Michael A. Miller c/o R.O.C.K.I.N. PO Box 3196, Baltimore MD 21228.

* **Take A Stand:** Christian rock/metal musicians newsletter. \$6 for 6 monthly issues. Send long self-addressed, stamped envelope for free first issue to: Take A Stand, PO Box 10741, Scottsdale AZ 85271.

* **NOTEBORED** - Progressive Christian music with an East Coast edge. Feature articles, interviews, record reviews, concert reviews, underground acts, news, columns and up-and-coming East Coast bands. Current sample issue - \$1. One year (six-issue) subscription - \$5. Payable to NOTEBORED, Box 202, RD 1, Atglen PA 19310.

* **THE OBLIGATOR** is a new Christian newsletter dealing with God's Word and God's rock, new wave/punk, and metal. \$1 for a trial issue (\$1.75 overseas); \$5 for six (overseas \$9). THE OBLIGATOR, PO Box 751, Portage MI 49081-0751. Bands: They want to review your demos.

* **Millenium** is looking for new members. We are a contemporary Christian music group with a style ranging from light to heavy rock, with the goal of playing quality Christian music with a clear Gospel message. We are currently seeking two dedicated Christians to fill the positions of lead and bass guitar. If you are interested in an interview and audition. please contact Myke Connell (512) 924-2986 or Jack Conaway 922-6148 anytime. Write: 3023 Chamita, San Antonio TX 78211.

* **Pen pals?** Lori Saternos would like pen pals who are into Christian metal. Write her @ 707 Clyde Hall, Cal. Univ. of PA, California PA 15414.

* **Wanted:** Christian rock music. Audio and video promos for local cable tv show. All Christian contemporary, heavenly metal, and country rock welcome. Send to: Christian Rock Productions, PO Box 13843, Roseville MN 55113.

* **Righteous Alliance** seeks killer vocalist and bassist. Contact Al Nesbitt, 434 Eureka St. Apt. E, Fairbanks AK 99701. (907) 488-9318.

* **Stephanie Loro** has tapes of her pop-rock available for \$8. 5523 N. 62nd Dr, Glendale AZ 85301.

* **Heavy Heavenly Metal,** a three hour show, needs any LP's, CD's, and tapes, with any new, bio's, or tour schedules of any Christian band. It would be awesomely appreciated! Send to: "Heavy Heavenly Metal" 17 Mark St, Springfield MA 01129.

* **Gospel Metal** - Gloss cover pictures, interviews, album updates, release dates, top-10 chart, gospel piece, picture on back, letters, album, concert ads. \$3 annual sub (3 issues). 3331 E. Romelle, Orange CA 92669.

* **The Word Be Heard** - Want to get your music and message out on the street freely? Send your demo, band info and lyrics c/o A.D.A. 1402 E. College Ave. #240-K, Normal IL 61761. The Word Be Heard is non-profit, and lets those who cannot afford to buy your demos hear them. Send demo as a gift or donation to above address.

1987 Reader's Poll Results

Well, the results are in. There were 112 responses to this year's poll, compared to two last year! The winner randomly selected was one random James Martyn, from Pt. Roberts, Washington.

Since this is really the first full reader's poll, I'm printing all the results in each category instead of just the top five. Some of the responses were records not released in '87, but we'll forgive 'em, won't we? Other peculiar responses are underlined.

Notice each category is titled "favorite" rather than "best". I chose this word to convey a less competitive feeling about the whole thing. We don't need to be competing against our brothers and sisters in Christ. Hopefully this poll was a lot of fun for everyone and shows us who people are listening to. It's shouldn't be a test of people's worth or who's better than who. This was the inspiration behind the Heaven's Metal Reader's Poll. Hope you enjoy it.

Most of the winners received a certificate for their award. The guitar hero award winner received a small guitar trophy. The responses with a (d) after it signify my vote and a (b) signifies Midwestern correspondent Bob Hopkins' vote.

Favorite album of 1987: 1) **Detonation** (Bloodgood) (d) & (b); 2) **Whitecross**; 3) **To Hell With The Devil** (Stryper); 4) **Setting Fire To The Earth** (Leviticus); 5) **Show No Mercy** (Bride); 6) **A Coming Storm** (Tempest); 7) **Time's End** (Saint); 8) TIE = **California Metal**, **Run To The Light** (Trouble), **D&K** (Degarmo & Key), **Rock For The King** (Barren Cross) and **Master Of The Metal** (Messiah Prophet); 9) TIE = **This Means War** (Petra), **Idle Cure**, **Wild Frontier** (Randy Stonehill), **Mad At The World**, **Joshua Tree** (U2), **Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent** (Jerusalem), **Red Sunrise** (Malachia), **Celestial Messenger** (Trytan), **Against The Grain** (Altar Boys), **The Innocence** (Dave Perkins) and **Stand As One** (Holy Right).

Favorite live band: 1) Bloodgood (d); 2) Stryper (b); 3) Rez; 4) TIE = Jerusalem, Petra, Messiah Prophet, Altar Boys, and Whitecross; 5) TIE = Paul Q-Pek Band, Bride, Mad At The World, Neon Cross, Mylon Lefevre, Whiteheart, Degarmo & Key, Daniel Band, and Vengeance.

Are you ministered to by Christian metal albums? 91% said yes. 6% said sometimes. 3% said no.

Are you ministered to at Christian metal concerts? 82% said yes. 10% haven't been. 3% said no. Some

said "When the members speak."

Favorite bassist: 1) Michael Bloodgood (d); 2) Timmy Gaines; 3) TIE = Ez Gomer, Warren Harris (b), and Rick Cua. 4) TIE = Steve Robinson (of Trytan) Richard Lynch, and Gary Mann (of Barnabas); 5) TIE = Tim Chandler (of Da and The Choir), Geddy Lee? (of Rush), Billy Sheehan (pray for him), Joe Shirk (of Messiah Prophet), Mike Leno (of Cross), Ken Samuels (of Common Bond), Steve DeAcutis (of Tempest), Phil Galicia (of Paradox), Brad Partain, Kenny Bentley (of Mylon Lefevre and Broken Heart), John Sproule (of Whitecross), Peter Carlsson (of Jerusalem), Dan McCabe (of Daniel Band), Rick Alba (of Altar Boys), David Bach (of Gardian), and Hakan Anderson (of Leviticus).

Favorite vocalist: 1) Michael Sweet; 2) Les Carlsen; 3) Scott Wenzl; 4) Dale Thompson; 5) Mike Lee; 6) Charlie Clark; 7) TIE = David Reeves (of Neon Cross), Terry H, Josh Kramer, Sonny Larsson (of Motherlode, Charizma and now Leviticus) (d), and Tony Crider (of Crossforce); 8) TIE = Mike Vance (of Second Chance), and Glenn Kaiser; 9) TIE = Eric Wagner (of Trouble), Darrell Mansfield, Terry Scott Taylor, Sim Wilson (of Undercover) Shawn Damien (of Barusch), Roger Rose (of Mad At The World), John Schlitt, Wendi Kaiser, Nancy Jo Mann (of Barnabas) Dale Streiker (of



Favorite live band: Bloodgood.

Stryken), J.R. Rowe (of Tempest), Mike Bloodgood?, Mylon Lefevre, Manuel Castillo (of Paradox) (b), and Keith Miles (of Holy Right); 10) TIE = Lary Dean (of Trytan), and Ken Pike (of Malachia).

Favorite drummer: 1) Robert Sweet (d); 2) Mark Welling; 3) Kjell Anderson (of Leviticus); 4) David Thunder (of Messiah Prophet); 5) TIE = Steve Whitaker, and Scotty Blackman (of Trytan); 6) TIE = Mark Hedl (of Whitecross), Joey Knight (of Stryken), and Louie Weaver (of Petra); 7) TIE = Ephraim Galicia (of Paradox) (b), Michael Ulusgard & Klas Anderfell (both played with Jerusalem in the past), Jim Maxwell (of Valor), Robby Lee (of Second Chance), John Herrin (of Saint), J.T. Taylor (ex-Bloodgood), Steve Cono (of Cross), Phillip Owens (of The Paul Q-Pek Band), Stephen Roland (of Bride), Mark Putnam (of Vigilance), Johnny Delaney (of First Strike) and Mike Betts (of Neon Cross).

Favorite Guitarist (The Heaven's Metal Guitar Hero Award): 1) Rex Carroll (d) (b); 2) Oz Fox; 3) David Zaffiro; 4) Ray Parris; 5) Tony Palacio (of Gardian); 6) John Mahan; 7) TIE = Phil Keaggy, Michael Sweet, and Troy Thompson; 8) TIE = Tony McAlpine, Steve Osborn (of Bride), Stu Heiss, Brian Belew (of Barnabas), Joe Satriani, Dee

Photo by Todd Myra



Photo by Todd Myra



Photo by Doug Van Pelt

Favorite bassist: Michael Bloodgood.

Favorite vocalist: Michael Sweet

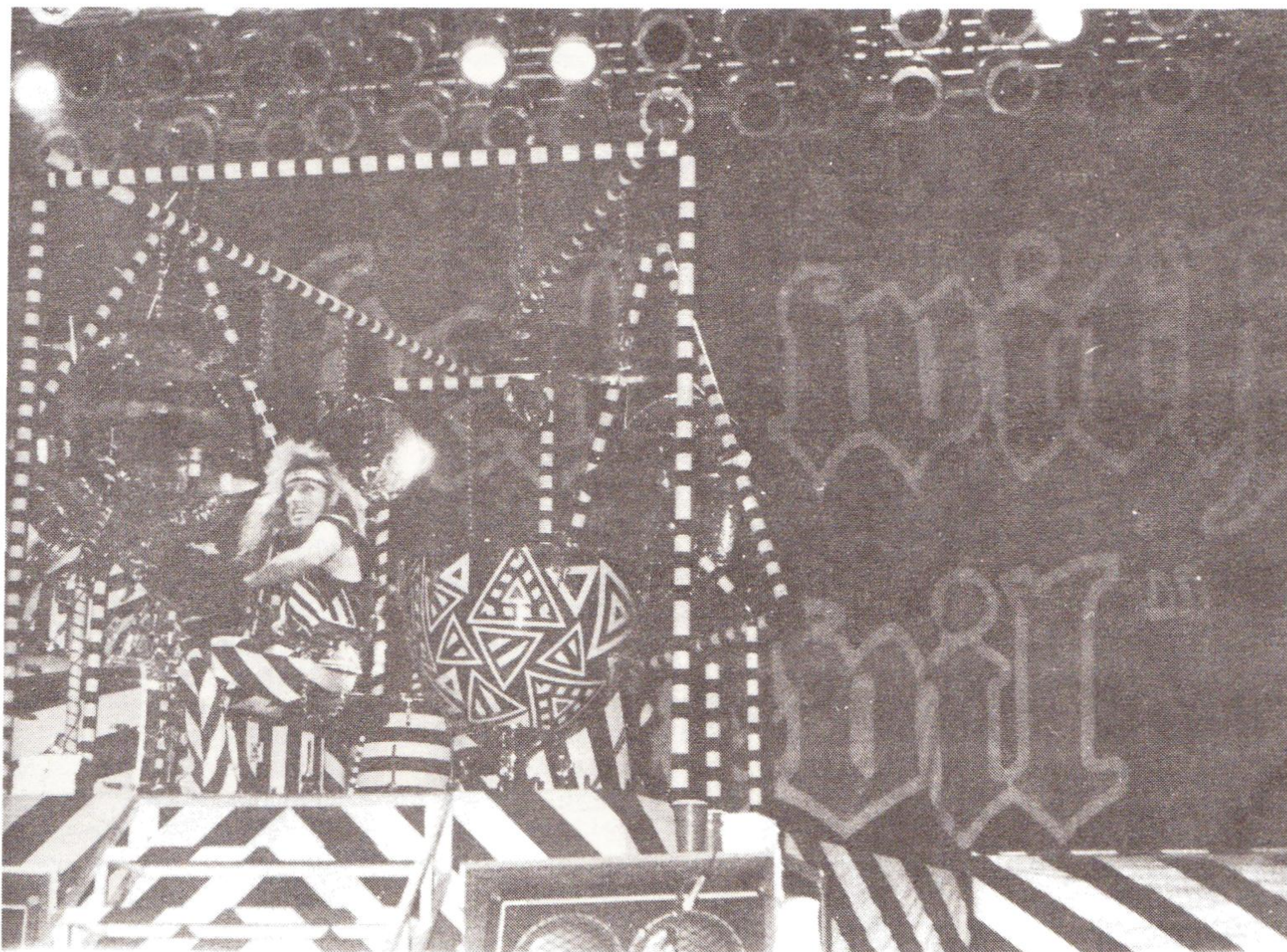


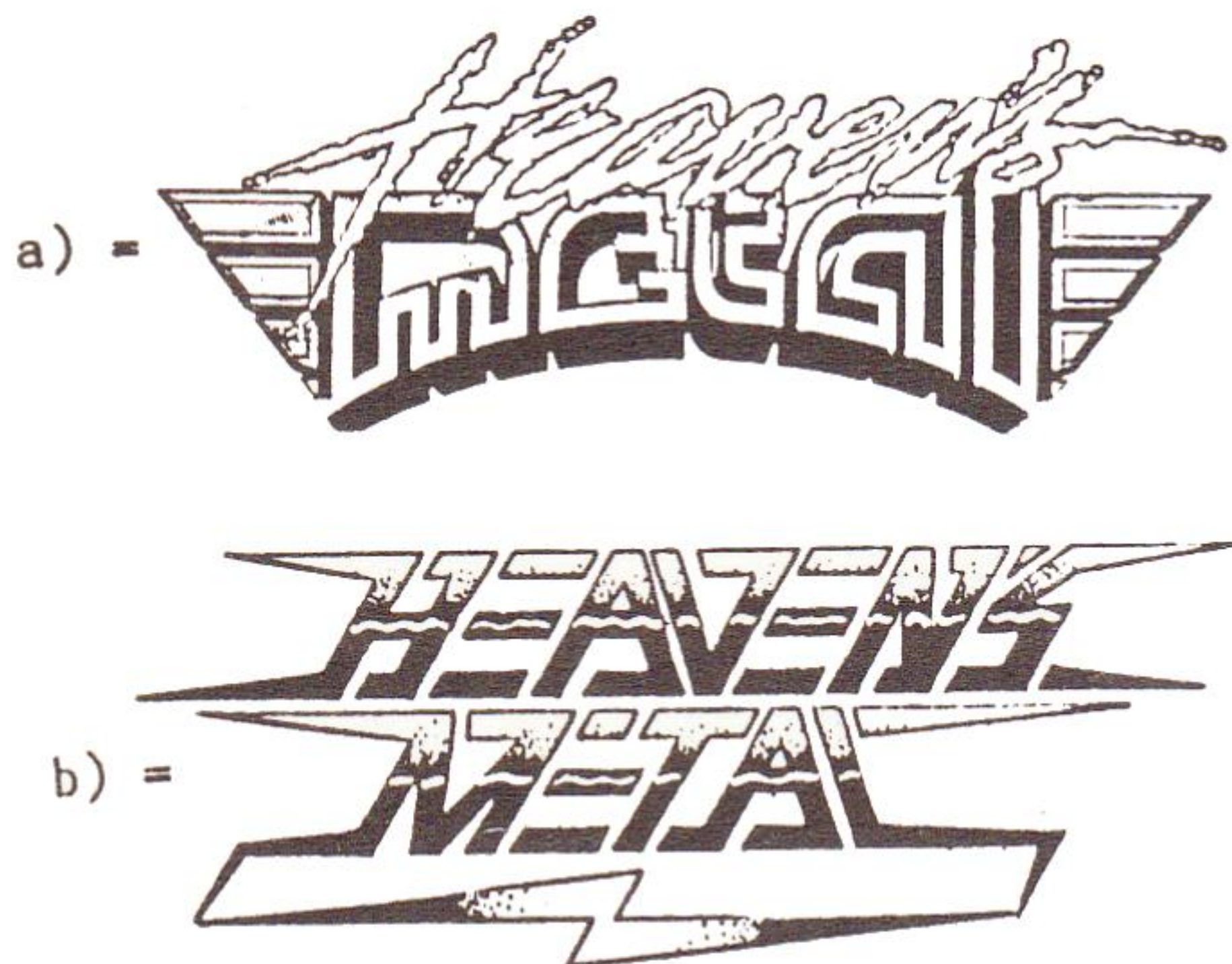
Photo by Doug Van Pelt

Favorite drummer: Robert Sweet

Harrington (ex-Holy Danger, now with Saint), Norman Barrat, Dana Key, Julio Rey (of The Lead), Rick Wartel & Bruce Franklin (of Trouble); 9) TIE = Lary Dean, and P.J. Bussey (of Taker).

Favorite album cover: 1) To Hell With The Devil; 2) Detonation; 3) A Coming Storm; 4) Master Of The Metal; 5) Time's End; 6) Whitecross; 7) Show No Mercy; 8) Rock The Flock; 9) Celestial Messenger (b); 10) Red Sunrise; 11) TIE = Revelation (Darrell Mansfield Band), Fearful Symmetry (Da), The Strongest Power, Feel The Fire (Barnabas), Between Heaven And Hell; Domsday For The Deceiver (Flotsam and Jetsam), Peacock Party (Gordon Giltrop), Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent, Bloodgood, Approaching Light Speed, California Metal, This Means War, Search And Destroy, and the generic version of To Hell With The Devil.

Favorite Heaven's Metal logo: 66 people said "a", including myself. 42 people said "b", including Bob. 3 people said "both".



Overall favorite band: 1) Stryper (b); 2) Bloodgood (d); 3) Barren Cross 4) Whitecross; 5) Rez; 6) TIE = Leviticus and Messiah Prophet; 7) TIE = Saint, Daniel Band, and Bride; 8) Altar Boys; 9) Petra; 10) TIE = Trouble, Trytan, and Stryken; 11) Gardian; 12) TIE = First Strike, Daniel Amos, Tyton, Creed, 100% Proof, Jerusalem, Testament, Jeff Johnson, Crossforce, Holy Right, and Barnabas.

The biggest problem in Christian rock question obviously had numerous responses. The number one problem cited was the lack of: promotion, publicity, signed bands, distribution; and record prices. The common solution boils down to more money, which means more secular record contracts, like Stryper has with Enigma. Some interesting variations to this problem were: "Bands that need to be signed aren't and bands that shouldn't be signed are; Availability of albums at less than suggested retail price" (Solution: One centralized reliable distributor that small labels can utilize); and "Christian labels with good acts not making enough efforts to put their product on the secular market."

The controversy over the validity of Christian metal was the second problem mentioned. The most common solution was prayer for the opponents. Interesting comments and solutions were: "Those who like Christian rock and those who don't and the intolerance each side has for the other; Those who like it should respect those who don't and not play it around them/ Those who don't like it should sit down with some albums, read the lyrics and sit down with a magazine like Heaven's Metal and read about the groups...they should attend concerts, sit the whole way through and see whether or not there is a ministry there/ They should not go on what everybody else says, but thoroughly check it out for themselves; Allow opponents to see ministry behind the scenes." I would agree that the best solution to changing critic's minds on the matter would be for them to fellowship with the artists and enthusiasts personally. That puts a big responsibility on the artists and us, because being an example requires us to be above reproach, full of love and Christ-like.

The lives and integrity of the artists was the next biggest concern. It was either the motives of the artists or their lifestyles that concerns many of us. The most common solution was: "Decide who you're gonna serve and do it. Make the Lord #1 in your lives, your music and your concerts." An interesting solution to artists compromising with the Bible was, "Kick 'em off Christian labels."

Next was the lack of Christ-centered lyrics. The solution offered was basically "seek God and write stronger lyrics...mention Jesus more...spend more time with God than on your music." Interesting variations to this subject were: "They're either not saying enough about Jesus or they're shoving it down your throat"; and "Too much preaching by people who have nothing to say."

Quality of the music was next. The most common solution requires an attitude change by artists to not accept mediocrity in their art.

Next was the effeminate appearance by many Christian metal artists. An interesting rebuke was, "Getting hung up on the heavy metal image and look. We tell people that God looks on the heart and that it's alright to look heavy metal, but, if a band doesn't look metal, we don't like them as much as a band that does." Solution: "Ask God to take all prejudice from our hearts and practice what we preach."

Lack of concerts and publicity of them was next on the list.

Tied for the next-worse problem were lack of originality and the quality of living by us--the listeners. "Be more original," and "spend more time with God than listening to music" were the solutions offered.

Other interesting problems/solutions were: "It's too mellow. There aren't enough thrashers!/ Form more thrash bands!"

"The devil's stronghold on rock and metal/ Prayer."

"The 'Christian' title/ Don't call it Christian or religious."

"We need to have a strong back-up program for the people who get saved at concerts/ Sanctuary is an amazing solution!" "There are too many good bands out and I don't have enough money to get their tapes and demos."

"That it (Christian rock) stinks artistically as opposed to Christian metal, which is great/ Convert Fleetwood Mac."

"You can't always hear the message/ Print more lyrics on inner sleeves."

"Trouble between band members/ Keep a servanthood attitude." (Ephesians 6:6)

"More bands should come closer together to help each other/ Prayer."

"I think they're trying to be heavier than secular bands/ They shouldn't all be real heavy. I think a group should be able to have a variety of music. I love to jam, but I also love ballads. The bands that jam all the time bore me after awhile."

"Vocals are low quality and not understandable/ Groups should find quality singers, like Stryper and Whitecross did."

The most common solution to all the varied problems cited was prayer, which is good to see.

Favorite demo tape: 1) Crossforce; 2) Gardian (d); 3) Frontline Life (Neon Cross); 4) Golgotha (from Maine); 5) TIE = Tongues Of Fire (Divine Right), Metal Missionaries (Bloodgood), and Vigilance; 6) Second Chance; 7) TIE = Cross, Aslan, Trytan, Louder Than Hell (Soldier); 8) Take Up Your Cross (Crucified); 9) TIE = Annihilation Of The Wicked (the former Tempest), In His Name (Tempest), Monkey See/Monkey Do (Matrix/Bride), Ruler (Paradox) (b), Prisoner (the former Golgotha), Taker, Death To Death (Hellfire), Vengeance, Masquerade (Valor), One Way (Holy Danger), Eternal Rytte, and X-Terra; 10) TIE = California Metal, Mercy Rule, Toran Spring, Whitecross, The Nation, Step Into Light, Thunder From The Mount (Zion), Covenant, Inner Lite, The White Metal Show, Breaking Into The Night (Lazarus), Rock On/Surprise (Stryken), Stealth, Warriors Of The Son (Saint), Bride, Believer (from Pennsylvania), Just Believe (Paragon), 35 Little Ducks In A Basket; 11) Crank It Up (First Strike); 12) TIE = Passion & Fear (Paul Q-Pek Band), and Sacred Warrior.

Heaviest band: 1) Saint; 2) Bloodgood; 3) Deliverance; 4) Vengeance (d); 5) Trouble; 6) TIE = Whitecross, and The Lead; 7) TIE = Barren Cross, and Bride; 8) Rez; 9) TIE = Second Chance, Messiah Prophet, Neon Cross, and Hellfire; 10) TIE = Leviticus, Holy Danger, Barnabas, Centurion, Faith Of Steel, Cross, Pretty Maids, Philadelphia, Apostle, Eternal Ryte, One Bad Pig, Valor, Tempest (with Warren Harris) (b), and Vigilance. Also, "Musically--Saint, spiritually--Bloodgood."

Most like to see interviewed in Heaven's Metal: 1) Messiah Prophet; 2) Saint; 3) Stryper; 4) Bride; 5) Trouble; 6) Vengeance; 7) TIE = Warren Harris, and Whitecross; 8) TIE = H.E.R.O., and Stryken; 9) Barnabas; 10) TIE = Jimmy Swaggert, and First Strike; 11) Crossforce; 12) Trytan; 13) TIE = Soldier, Neon Cross, Tim Gaines, Bloodgood, Cross, and Deliverance; 14) Malachia; 15) TIE = Eternal Ryte, Philadelphia, David Wilkerson, Kerry Livgren, Believer, Managers of bands, Divine Right, Holy Right, Valor, Altar Boys, Tempest, Jimmy Hotz, Leviticus, Full Armour, D&K, Contagious, Petra, Dual Edge, The Lead, Neil Peart, and Second Chance; 16) Tyton; 17) Zion; 18) Sacred Warrior.



One of the reasons Crossforce was voted "Favorite demo": P.W. Castillo's guitar sound.

Photo by Doug Van Pelt

Want a good idea? Make a couple of tapes with all the following songs on it, and then you'll have a good cross-section of Christian heavy metal favorites.

Favorite song: 1) **Crucify** (Bloodgood); 2) **No Way I'm Goin' Down** (Whitecross); 3) **Messiah** (Bloodgood); 4) **Saved** (Leviticus) (d); 5) **More Than A Man** (Stryper); 6) TIE = **Suffering Servant** (Leviticus), **He Is The Rock, Who Will You Follow** (Whitecross), **Heavy Metal Thunder** (Messiah Prophet), **Soldiers Under Command**, **Calling On You, Makes Me Wanna Sing** (Stryper), and **It's All Come True** (Barren Cross); 7) TIE = **Attack** (Deliverance), **Battle Cry** (Messiah Prophet), **To Hell With The Devil, The Way** (Stryper), **Enough Is Enough** (Whitecross), **Alone In Suicide, Live Wire** (Bloodgood), **Hearts Lost In Nowhere** (Altar Boys), and **Crush The Head Of Satan** (Stryken); 8) TIE = **Miracle Of The Galaxy** (Gardian), **You're Mine** (Whitecross); 9) TIE = **One Way** (Holy Danger), **Loving You (Live)**, **Sing Along Song, Free, Reason For The Season** (Stryper), **Voice That's Calling, Rock The Flock, Master Of The Metal** (Messiah Prophet), **Vagrant People, Stand In The Light, Eat The Flesh, Black Snake** (Bloodgood), **Looking For A Reason** (Whitecross), **Rock For Eternity** (Zion), **Where The Streets Have No Name** (U2), **The Judge** (Second Chance), **Time's End, In The Night, Primed And Ready** (Saint), **The Answer** (Stryken), **Legacy** (Tyton), **Kids Are Gonna Rock, All My Days** (Tempest), **I Want To See Heaven** (Mad At The World), **Calvary Hill** (Jacob's Well), **Count On Love** (Altar Boys), **Mr. Electric, It's War** (Trytan), **Deadlock, Light The Flame, Going Nowhere** (Barren Cross), **Plunder Hell/Populate Heaven** (Jerusalem), **Nuclear War** (Hellfire), **Rock For The Rock** (Rage Of Angels) (b), **Quiet Times** (Eternal Ryte), **Spirit-Filled Pizza** (Carmen), **No Matter The Price, Thunder In The City** (Bride), **White Throne** (Vengeance), **Rise Up** (Daniel Band), **The Chair, Shadows** (Rez), **I Only Want To See You There** (Keith Green), and **Flames Of Fire** (Leviticus); 10) TIE = **Genesis** (Trytan), and **I Need Your Love** (Neon Cross); 11) TIE = **Heaven's Are Calling** (Sacred Warrior), and **God's Will Be Done** (Tempest).

Favorite Songwriter: 1) Michael Sweet; 2) Michael Bloodgood/David Zaffiro/Les Carlsen (d); 3) Rex Carroll/Scott Wenzl; 4) Troy and Dale Thompson; 5) TIE = Barren Cross/Steve Whitaker/Mike Lee, and Andy Strauss (Messiah Prophet; 6) TIE = Mike Stand (Altar Boys), Bob Hartman (Petra), and Richard Lynch/John Mahan (Saint); 7) TIE = Bjorn Stigsson, Glenn Kaiser, Mick Rowe (Tempest), Daniel Band, Terry Scott Taylor, Robert Sweet, and Oz Fox; 8) TIE = Eric Wagner (Trouble), Lee/Vance (Second Chance), Randy

Stonehill, Steve Cono (Cross), Roger Rose (Mad At The World), Ulf Christiansson, Don Francisco, "The Word of God in songs, especially from bands like Apostle and Paradox" (b), Jesus Christ, Bono, Sean Damian (Bauratch), Jon Trott, Gardian, Tony Crider (Crossforce), Dale Streiker (Stryken), Kris Killingsworth (Barnabas), Kerry Livgren, Geoff Moore, Johann Sebastian Bach, Jeff Johnson, and Jimmy Brown (Deliverance); 9) Lary Dean (Trytan).

Favorite new band: 1) Whitecross; 2) TIE = Tempest, and Bride; 3) Gardian; 4) Trytan; 5) TIE = Vengeance, Tyton, and Holy Right; 6) TIE = Paradox (d) (b), Soldier, Stryken, Deliverance, Hellfire, Crossforce, and Dual Edge; 7) TIE = Cross, Apostle, Idle Cure, Mad At The World, Second Chance, Sacred Warrior, Bloodgood, Victory, Follower, Antioch, Charizma, First Aid, Neon Cross, The Lead, and Saint.

The average age that responded is 20 years old. The accumulated age is 2,201 years!.

Record Reviews

Recommendations this issue go to Bjorn Stigsson's solo album, Leviticus's "Setting Fire..."; Saint's "Too Late For Living"; and Creed's EP.

Setting Fire To The Earth - Leviticus

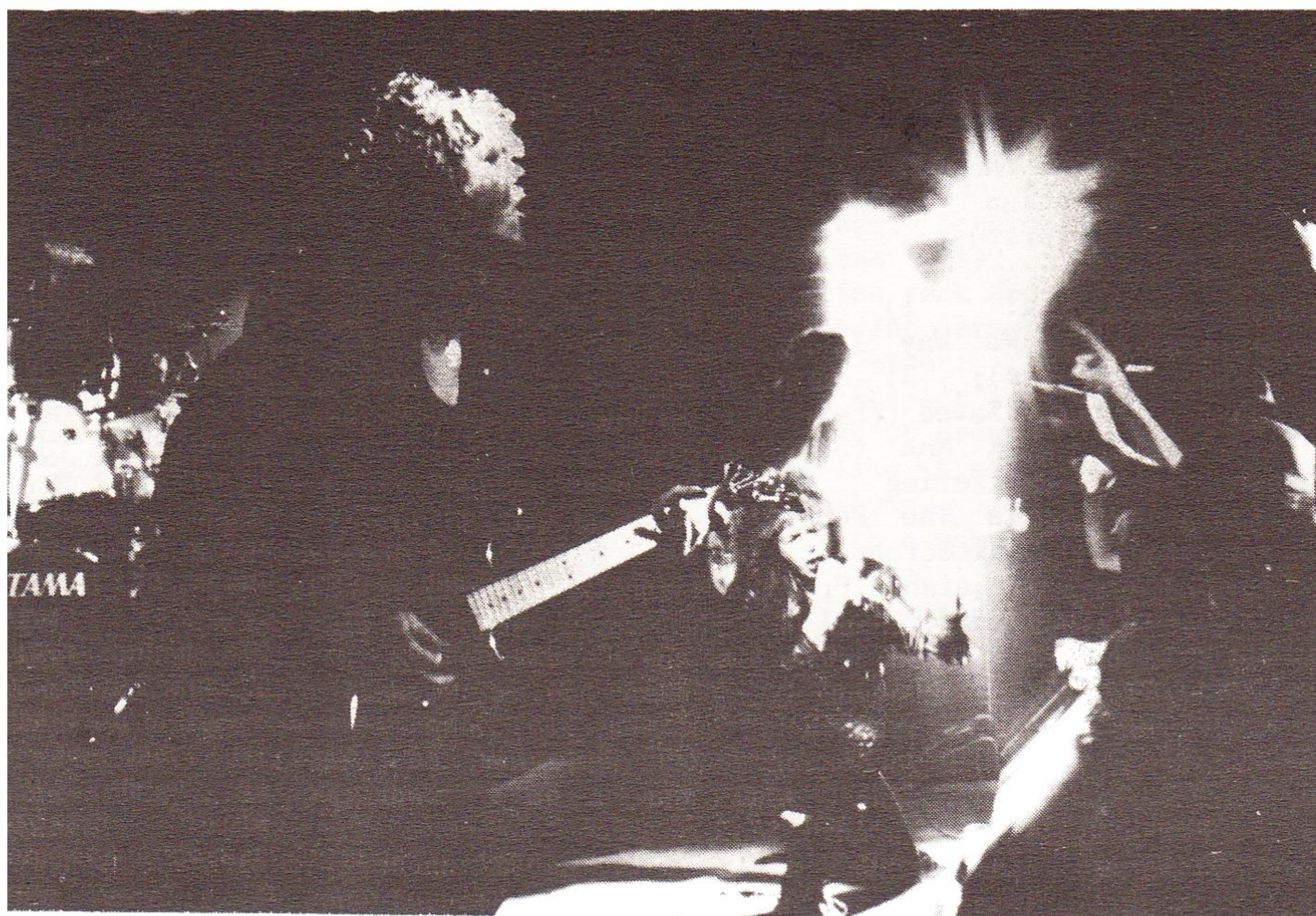
This album is from a brand new Leviticus. The addition of Terry H. and Ez Gomer have brought a much more commercially-accessible sound to the once rough and coarse sound of earlier Leviticus. Terry's vocals are very strong (absolutely killer, actually!) and yet melodic. Bjorn's songwriting has improved dramatically. This album is so hot it sizzles!

The new sound is melodic metal. The standout songs are: **Flames Of Fire**; **Saved**; **Elijah On Carmel** and **The Suffering Servant**.

Flames Of Fire starts off with a crescendo of Terry's vibrato'd screams. The lyrics punch right in with bold praises: "You are clothed with majesty and glory/ and cover Yourself with light..." The rest of the song declares how God created the earth with His mighty power.

The guitar screams throughout this song, mimicking Terry's voice often, as though it were human. The drums cascade through each verse and rumble an exclamation point as it heads into the chorus.

Saved starts off with a loud sincere shout of "Praise the Lord! I'm saved." This song downright kicks.



The present lineup of Leviticus

The First And The Last was written with God speaking. "See all your angry enemies/ lie confused and shattered/ anyone opposing you will die/ You will look for them in vain/ they will all be gone/ I am holding you by your right hand/ I, the Lord your God/ and I say to you, 'Don't be afraid.'"

I'm A Believer is a profession of faith and no, it's not a cover version of the old Monkees song. It says to God, "When Your Word is spoken to me/ I believe in what it says/ I take the Word in my mouth/ and I believe in the power it gets...Glory, glory hallelujah/ I praise You Lord."

Don't Go Out is a song that says, "Don't go out looking for the kingdom/ Cause it's already here...Because the kingdom is within you/ It is here to live inside you."

Elijah On Carmel is a direct biblical account of the test between the Lord and Baal, where the Baal prophets called upon their Gods and got no answer and Elijah called upon the name of the Lord and the fire of the Lord fell and burned up everything. (1 Kings 18:20-38) Ez Gomer makes a powerful showing on bass throughout this song. He lays down an incredible bass line!

The Suffering Servant is an epic taken from Isaiah 41 and 53. It starts off with a beautiful classical acoustic intro with softly sung lyrics, which turn into power chords, pounding drums and triumphant declarations that must've used all the air in Terry's lungs to sing. Oh my! This song is so powerful! Do you ever become speechless while hearing a song? There's such power in the arrangement, performance and lyrics of the song. Whew!

Get Up is a fired-up, high-energy exhortation to the body written by Ez Gomer: "Don't be afraid/ who can do you any harm?/ Your debts are paid/ you are resting in My arms."

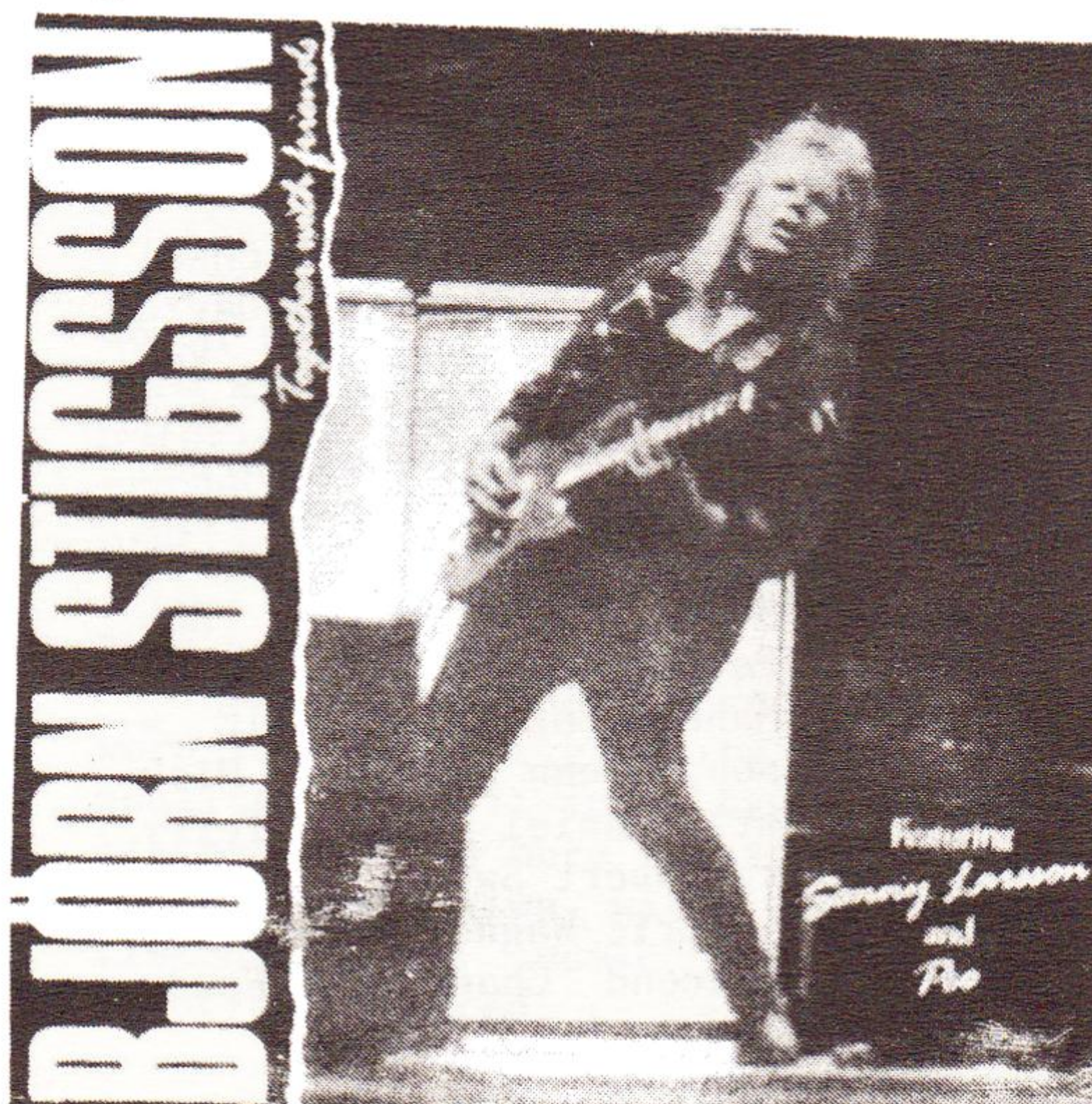
Love Is Love is a metal ballad-type song taken straight from 1 Corinthians 13. The guitar sound is very nice (especially loud). The drums, a la Kjell Andersson, add a heavy punch.

All throughout this album, you'll find ad-lib screams and verses by Terry H that show the mark of a real professional vocalist. He has the confidence and skill to go off on his own during bridges and finishes. This is something you won't find on a lot of Christian albums.

Also in this album is lots of scripture. Tons of it, in fact. Bjorn really uses the Word in his lyrics.

This album was produced by Peo Pettersson, who does an immaculate job, making this record one of the very, very best records in Christian music.

This album is available through Solid Rock Imports. Spring Arbor will be picking it up very, very soon, so try your Christian bookstore. If you'd like a product catalog from Solid Rock, write: Solid Rock Import Records, Box 2626, Mobile, Alabama 36652. Call toll free @ 1-800-633-1272. Word to the wise, "Buy this album now. It's too good to miss."

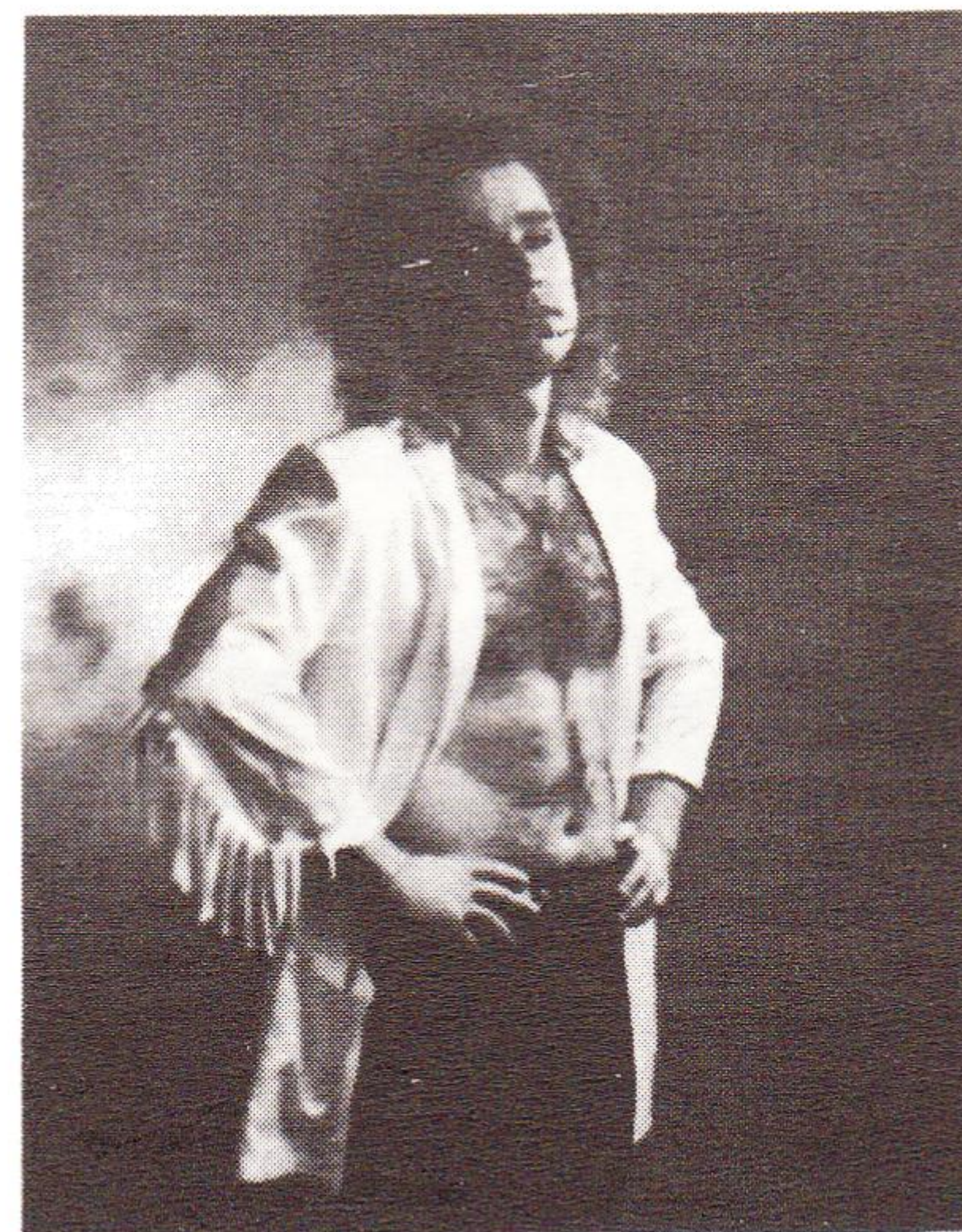


Together With Friends - Bjorn Stigsson

As Setting Fire To The Earth gave us a new Leviticus sound, so does this solo album by Bjorn Stigsson. On it, we get a chance to hear Sonny Larsson sing with Bjorn on guitar, Kjell on drums and Hakan Anderson, ex-Leviticus bassist, on bass. This is a prelude to future recordings from Leviticus, because Sonny Larsson has officially joined the band. They will record this Spring and release a new Leviticus album this summer. Both Terry H. and Ez Gomer have now left the band and, apparently, Hakan will rejoin Leviticus on bass.

Anyway, on with the album. This record is a unique one in that it features three vocalists: Peo, who produced it; Sonny; and Tina Spangberg.

Tina does a fantastic job on It's Alright, which is a power ballad. Sonny and Peo each sing lead vocals on four songs, and share vocals on two songs. In I'm Gonna Rock, they each trade off vocals and finish each other's sentences. They both join up with Tina in the album finale, I'm Free.



Peo

The album starts off with an instrumental called Free. It is a concert-opener type song, lasting about a minute.

Come On charges on after the intro with some very joyful chords. Peo sings on this one, which is a real fun song. When I listen to this song, a big smile just comes over my face. If there was ever a metal dance song, this is it. In concert, this song should get a crowd movin'.

Peo belts it out in this song. This guy needs to make music. On this song we hear almost all of his range (I guess). He screams, yells, groans, whispers, talks and softly sings. In one break he cries: "I see a crowd of people/ from every nation, from every language/ They're all dressed in white/ and they're dancing and singing to the King/ Come on, come on/ let's rock to the King/ come on, come on/ let's dance to the King."

Bjorn plays some excellent melodic leads, as well as letting his clean power chords ring out.

Next up Sonny sings a righteous love song, called **Lovin' My Woman**. You immediately notice that it's a different singer, because of Sonny's high end. The lyrics speak of the thankfulness Bjorn has to God for his wife.

"She's a gift from God...we stand for Jesus Christ together/ and live in the kingdom of God/ We've got the love we need from heaven/ to take care of one another...I'm lovin'/ lovin' my woman..."

You better have good speakers if you're gonna crank this one up! The double bass drums and bass guitar are punchin' loud at high speed!

I'm Gonna Rock features the vocal trade-offs with Sonny and Peo, as well as some heavy keyboards, kind of like Rainbow or Deep Purple used to do. Keys are used here as an accent, rather than a major instrument. The chorus is very basic and anthemic with everybody shoutin' along: "I'm gonna rock!/ I'm gonna roll."

It's Alright starts off with a very clean keyboard program, while Tina hums. This song gets my vote for best female performance in Christian metal (The only thing close is Barnabas' **Breathless Wonderment**). The song is a reassuring confirmation that we're in God's hands--even when we feel like our flame is going out.

Way Of Living finishes off side one with another driving, commercial metal song. Peo belts out lyrics like

"When the evil attacks you...In the name of Jesus he'll flee/ That's the power you have...My way of living."

Sonny sings and screams in **Stand Up**, where he sings about how God's

Photo by Hanno Viita



Bjorn Stigsson

kingdom is around the world. Bjorn writes from personal experience as he relates "I'm going to Allentown (Where Pure Metal's offices are)/ I'm going to New York City...Everywhere people are waiting/ waiting for the good news...Stand up...the kingdom is here/ Right now...it's here for you."

Sonny does the vocals on the next number, called **Come Together**, a ripping song about Christian metal.

"We all come together/ We all live for the Lord."

Harry Kay, a special guest on this album with 15 guest musicians and singers, lets it fly on this one, with lots of flashy lead breaks.

Majestic In Power is a Leviticus-type song, with lyrics straight out of the Bible and a real heavy rhythm. It's got a bluesy flavor, similar to a Whitesnake song.

King Of Glory is a real upbeat worship song. It's got a pop metal

sound to it, which could give this song airplay.

Here It Comes is another rousing rocker that should be played at high volume levels in the early morning. It says, "Arise! and shine/ for your light has come/ and the glory of the Lord is shining on you...Here it comes/ the glory of Zion."

It features a blistering, mid-70's style tradeoff between keyboard and guitar. The song ends by Peo pouting "Oh my soul."

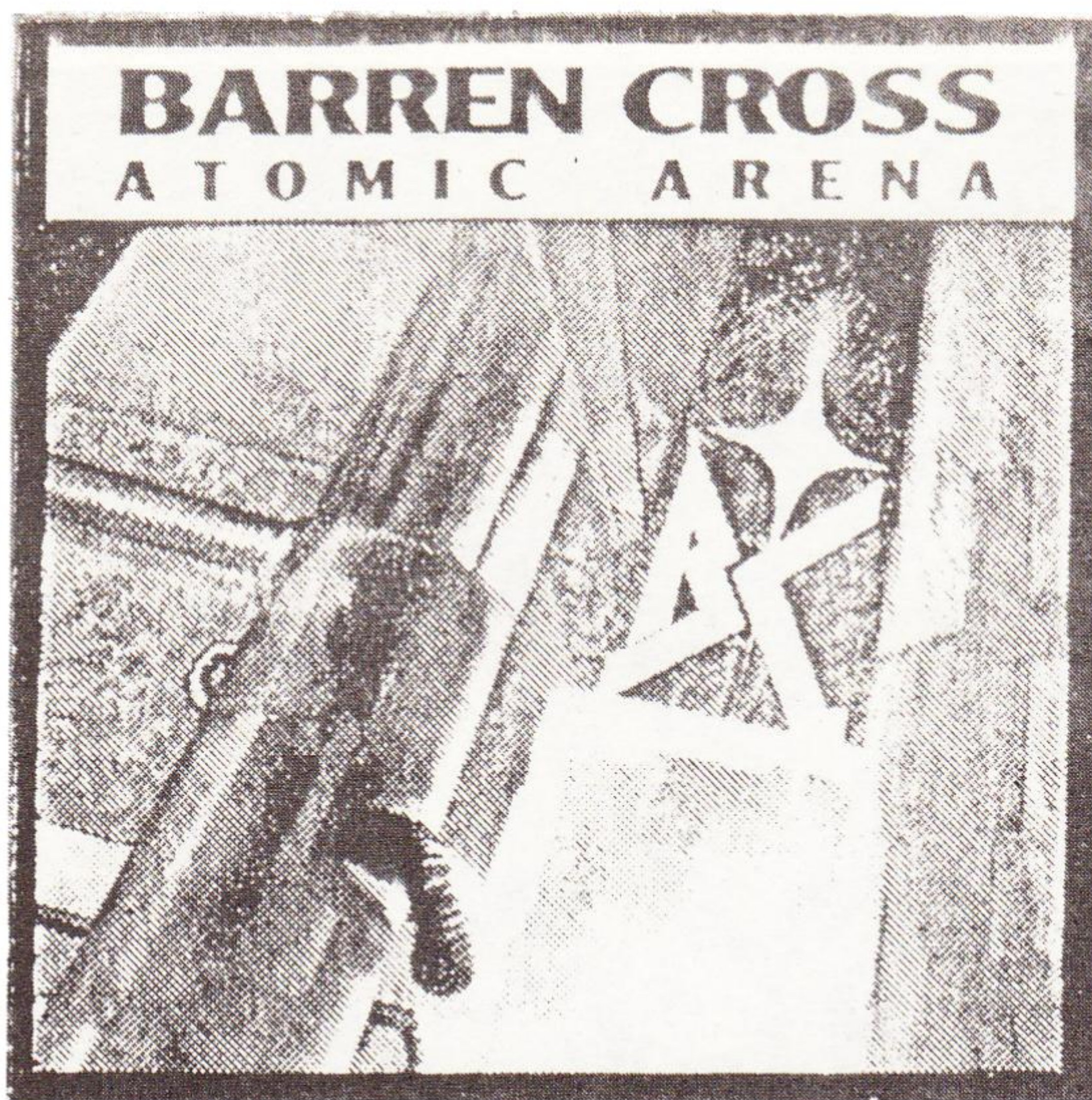
I'm Free ends the record with all three singers singing, "I am free, I'm free/ Christ set me free."

If this album had the same promotion as **To Hell With The Devil**, I'm sure it would sell just as well. It's hot. If you love Stryper, this record is right up your alley.

If you'd like this album (Yes, yes, yes!) send a \$15 International money order or cash to Leviticus Forces Fan Club, c/o Magnus Holm, Blabarsstigen 37, 54133 SKOVDE, Sweden.



Sonny and Bjorn



Atomic Arena - Barren Cross

Ahhhh-yeah! Mike Lee returns to the world of metal with thunderous music to back him up. This album is incredible. I doubt anyone in this genre will pass this one up. I have a feeling that Enigma's gonna push this and it will get the world's attention. The music will surely stand up to the scrutiny of the critics.

Imaginary Music gets the album rolling with a good rhythm and a massive drum sound. Both Steve Whitaker and Jim LaVerde put in a stellar performance for the rhythm section on **Atomic Arena**. Jim especially stands out in almost every song, with riffs that shake.

Special thanks need to go here to John and Dino Elefante for a fantastic production job.

The lyrics here talk about the phoney, temporal prestige of being a rock star.

Killers Of The Unborn has a real quick rhythm that delivers this pro-life statement very powerfully. Lyrically, it chronolizes the fate of over 4,000 unborn babies per day in the U.S. alone. Later on it also confronts the emptiness of the female who killed her baby. It lets her know that there is forgiveness in the Savior.

The song ends with a real cool drum roll that's mixed from channel to channel as it fades and Mike screams as if he's being killed.

In The Eye Of The Fire is a stormer of a song. It has the best bass riffs on the album. You can almost see the strings bending and vibrating.

Terrorist Child has a small lead break that's pretty hot, although used to accent rather than dominate.

Dominate. That's the word for Barren Cross and their music. It just dominates.

Close To The Edge is another powerful rocker with a polished sound. The lyrics are bold and well-written.

Dead Lock is remixed from the **California Metal** album, which is done a little faster and has a few minor changes in the lyrics.

Instead of "cold steel, the pipe's never cold," it's "hot steel..." There's some echo and ad-lib vocal tracks added also. I think I like the Cal Metal version better, except for the lead break here.

Cultic Regime comes next, starting with a laughing Hyena intro (portraying a crazed cultist, I guess).

"My God raised up from the dead/ Is yours in bed?"

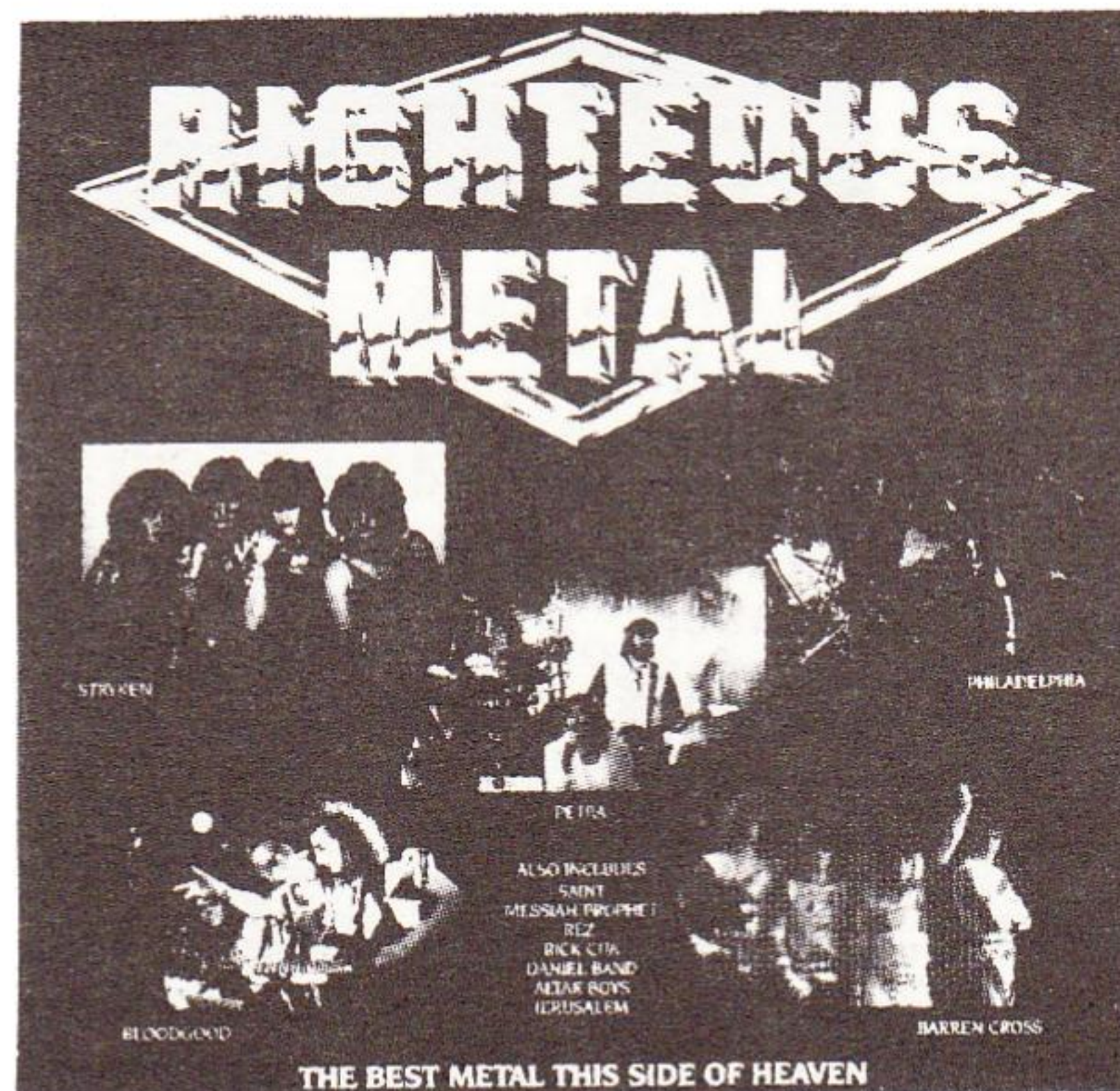
The lyrics here are totally straight-forward. We need to have the boldness to speak like this to the cultists that come to our door, only with love and less volume: "If you don't believe Jesus is God/ My God made yours, that's all."

Heaven Or Nothing is a metal ballad done well. Written by John and Dino Elefante, this love song acknowledges God and has pictures of heaven (streets made of gold and castles in the sky).

I bet they do a video of this song and boy, I hope it goes to the top. I don't know if a lot of the conservative adult contemporary stations will play it, 'cause Mike's vocals are very much those of a metal screamer.

King Of Kings is a worship anthem. It's got a killer message and sound, plus it has that extra dimension of worship that affects our spirits in a different way. You can kind of tell Steve Whitaker wrote it, because there's some real emotional, ballad-type drumming during some of the worshipful verses.

Living Dead ends the album with a call to break out of the state of spiritual death. This album may be one of the tools that God uses to reap a great big harvest out of the world's metalheads.



Righteous Metal - Various Artists

K-tel's Arrival Records has released the first Christian metal compilation of signed bands. They even beat Pure Metal's long-awaited **Heavy Righteous Metal**.

The first reaction many of us die-hard metalheads is gonna be "Ah, they put Petra on there! And The Altar Boys!" You must remember that this album was basically put together almost a year ago. Arrival had to choose from Christian metal bands with records out. They didn't have access to all the hot bands

with demos...and hot bands like Whitecross and Trytan weren't out yet. So, with what they had to choose from, they put together a good little record. Of any Petra song, I'd put **Shakin' The House** too. I'd pick another Rick Cua song, like **Don't Say Suicide**, and I'd choose **I've Got Power** by Leviticus over an Altar Boys tune, and I'd choose **I Think You Know** from Rez's latest, plus I'd pick anything from Barren Cross but **Rock For The King** (It's their only song I really don't like).

This is a hot album, as far as giving an uninitiated person a fair cross-section of Christian metal as of a year ago. It's progressed so much since then, Praise God! The real good news is: that Arrival is willing to do more compilations in the future!

The album starts off with one of Christian metal's classics: **Bloodgood's Crucify**. The remaining song list is: **Rock For The King**; **Master Of The Metal** by Messiah Prophet; **Time's End** by Saint; **In His Majesty's Service** by Jerusalem; **Love Comes Down** by Rez; **Shakin' The House**; **Rock On** by Stryken; **Rise Up** by Daniel Band; **Wear Your Colors** by Rick Cua; **You Are Loved** by Altar Boys; and Philadelphia's **Search And Destroy**.

One other great thing about this record is that it's being distributed in secular stores all over!

Battlezone - Lightforce

From down under comes Lightforce, an aggressive band with decidedly evangelistic lyrics. I'm reminded of Eternal Ryte's earlier music when I listen to this 8-song tape. The vocals are melodic, while the guitars and rhythm section race along at attack speed.

Evil Desires shows off bassist Stephen Rowe's skills at soloing. Stephen starts off the next song, **Reigning With The King**, with a plucking sound. The chorus for this song has a good hook, which stays in your head long after hearing it.

Eyes Of Destruction starts off with Satan addressing his demons on pillaging the earth with mayhem, since Jesus has been crucified. One of the demons interrupts with the desperate announcement of "Wait, Satan! Jesus is risen from the dead!" The chorus sounds like many a thrash chorus, with all the members chanting, "Eyes of destruction!" The band even flies into thrash mode after the second bridge, then returns to the plodding verse. The song returns to speed at the end. These guys have been keeping touch with current trends in metal.

This tape is a fine display of metal. The guitar sound is good, with just the right amount of feedback in some areas and crunch in others. There's plenty of good



Lightforce 1 to r: Stephen Rowe; Errol Willenberg; Steve Johnson; and Cameron Hall.

metal hooks and production tricks thrown in. The only drawbacks are average songwriting and tightness. If I was a heavy metal music teacher, I'd give this tape a "B". We should be hearing more from Light Force in the future, because they have lots of potential. Not to mention the need for righteous metal in Australia.

The cover of this tape is very interesting. It's a full-color painting of a long-haired warrior holding a sword directly over Satan, who is cowering on his knees, about to be stabbed. Above the sword is a massive lightning bolt coming out of the sky and dancing around the sword handle. Quite impressive. The band spent \$1500 making it look this good.

To order this tape, send A\$10 plus A\$2.20 postage. Mail to: Stephen Johnson, PO Box 83, Moorabbin, 3189 Victoria, Australia.

Stephen, the lead vocalist, tells me that Lightforce has gotten a real good response from their secular audience. "It appears they are shellshocked," says Stephen, "as they stare on--trying to believe what they are seeing and hearing is really happening. Part of the response was because we hadn't been seen or heard of and we took the scene by surprise. We just appeared...with an album too."

Lightforce could use your prayers. "We realize we have a very awesome God," says Stephen, "and He is about the best manager you could get, but still we feel a bit alone over here. Our church is really the only one in the country who strongly supports the vision for Christian metal, realizing its power and influence on people, and how it can be used as a weapon against Satan and his army of thieves. We notice in scripture it

talks about armies always sending forth the musicians and singers ahead of the soldiers, and the worship of the people causes God to act on behalf of the people. That's what we want--revival. We'd love to see the metal scene saved."

Frontline - Armada

This band from Holt, Michigan (not to be confused with Tim Morrow's band with the same name out of Louisville, Kentucky) has just released this 10-song tape. (Apparently, the Armada from Kentucky has changed their name).

This is a good tape. The production and performance are above-average. The songwriting is really good, which is one of the most important factors in music. No songs stand out as great pieces, but the band shows a high level of confidence and potential. The future should be bright for these guys.

The artwork on this custom tape is fantastic. It's a full color depiction of an iron fist bursting through a wooden floor and clenching Lucifer (red horns and all) by the collar of his military uniform. In the background is an amplifier with adjustable knobs that read: Greed; Lust; Sin boost; and hate. Falling out of the red wimp's hands is a "Force Strategy Map" that has certain labels in God's territory, like love, health and blessing countered in enemy territory by hate, sickness and greed. On the inside is a concert photo that reveals five and a half Marshall stacks behind the band.

The thing that stands out the most in this band is that they sound like they know what they're doing. The

semi-ballad No Alibi has fluid bass and guitar riffs and rolling, heavy keyboards that spell out experience. Most of the songs churn out a heavy metal crunch that bites and chews up and spits out silence. Each of the 10 songs shows versatility.

Armada would be classified as straight-ahead metal. Nothing fancy, nothing slick, just real metal produced very well.

The lyrics in *Communication* spell out their faith clearly: "If He isn't Lord of all, then He isn't Lord at all."

Frontline proclaims, "Through Jesus we have power to command/ crushing Satan with an iron hand--on the frontline/ Though evil tries to sing the world away/ We make our stand and here we'll stay--on the frontline."

This song starts off with a nice acoustic, chopping rhythm. The vocals are nice and tough, not too distant from Jacob's Well or David Meniketti from Y & T.

The *Calling* has some piercing lyrics that convict the church: "People crying out to a God that makes them mad/ blaming Him for all the trials that they've had/ don't they know He came so they could be set free/ or is their ignorance because of you and me?...Jesus said to go make disciples of the world/ to stand for what the church once gave its life...The harvest is ready but the laborers are few/ who will plant the seeds of life--I say God's calling you."

But *It's Only Rock 'N' Roll* has a neat exhortation to "Pray for the guitarist before the axes fall/ pray for the singer who will not heed the call/ pray for the writer drawing ink from a bitter well/ for there is no rainbow in the dark/ without Christ there is only hell."

Loud And Bold has the most memorable chorus (ie=hook). I would pick this one for airplay if I ran a radio station.

If you'd like a copy of this full-length tape, send \$8 to Armada c/o New Directions, 2495 Cedar St, Ste. 21C, Holt MI 48842.

Torn Flesh

This thrash punk band from Ohio has released a four-song preview of an upcoming album (due out this summer). They describe their music as a mix of blues, surf, metal and ballad, all cemented with a fast, hard-driving punk/clash sound.

The band elaborates: "We are sick of the candy-coated crucifixion sermons and watered-down lyrics from other groups. Our music and lyrics come right to the point about what Jesus suffered--all the pain, torment and anguish He went through for us."

"Christ loves us so much, it killed Him. Jesus also wants to kill our carnal hearts and make us a new creature in Christ."

Their music is aggressive and punky. It has a real garage sound,

production-wise, but it's listenable. The song titles are: **Living Active; Dead To The World; No Surfin' In Hell; and Love Kills.** They do mix an upfront, thrashing, in-your-face style of music with a real radical, self-denying message of commitment to Jesus.

Living Active starts off the tape with a take-off of Rez's debut album, **Awaiting Your Reply.** A soft-spoken deejay comes on to introduce an "interesting new group" and then looks at the title and introduces it in shock, "Torn Flesh?"

If you'd like to have this four-song EP, send \$5.50 to SackCloth And Ashes Music, Rt. 1 Box 612, Chesapeake OH 45619. 75 cents of the money you send will go to mailing you the tape, and the other \$4.75 will go towards the studio expenses for their upcoming 10-song LP.

Too Late For Living - Saint

This album cooks! I've heard it for the third time now and it's growing on me. It's the most listenable Saint so far! The sound is produced better, the songs are written better and there's more commercial appeal. No, I'm not saying that Saint is selling out. They're as heavy as ever. They're more articulate. You won't necessarily need a lyric sheet to follow Josh's commanding voice.

One thing you can pray for: that I would have a chance to interview Rob Halford and Judas Priest. I can't wait to play some Saint for 'em and get their response. Wouldn't that be wild?

Anyway, this Saint album is their best. It is as much an improvement over **Time's End** as **Time's End** was over **Warriors Of The Son.**

The leads are mixed high enough over the rest of the sound to distinguish clearly. There's a good drum sound on the album too. The instrumental sings up a storm, slicing through the air with melodic notes sent loudly from Dee Harrington's guitar.

Gosh, this album smokes. I'll be honest, I think Saint's first two albums are hot 'n' heavy, but I never listen to 'em. I think I've found a Saint album I'll listen to now...a lot!

This has got to be the next best thing to Whitecross on Pure Metal to date.

I think Saint will blow some people away if they tour this material. Some of these songs, like **Through The Sky**, have just awesome lead runs and rhythms that would shake up a crowd.

The War Is Over, the one Richard said was like a ballad, is still not as wimpy as Richard made it out to be, although it certainly is a change from previous Saint material.

Buy this record!



Malachia jamming out at the Metal Mardis Gras.

Red Sunrise - Malachia

Relying heavily on mid-seventies gothic metal keyboards, Malachia churns out a very original metal—even if Ken Pike does sound like Geoff Tate of Queensryche. He's got a three and a half octave range!

This album, which has been out for almost a year, is hot. It's real heavy metal and it's powerful. It's not outstanding or exceptional, but it is very good and holds its own musically. It's definitely an impressive debut from a band that seemed to just appear (at least on the national scene, after their **Under The Blade** EP). Hopefully this band will be around for a long time, because they offer us a unique style of metal.

The members are accomplished musicians: Jeffrey James, the guitarist, is a graduate of the Guitar Institute of Technology; and Steven "Chima" Ayola plays seven synthesizers in concert.

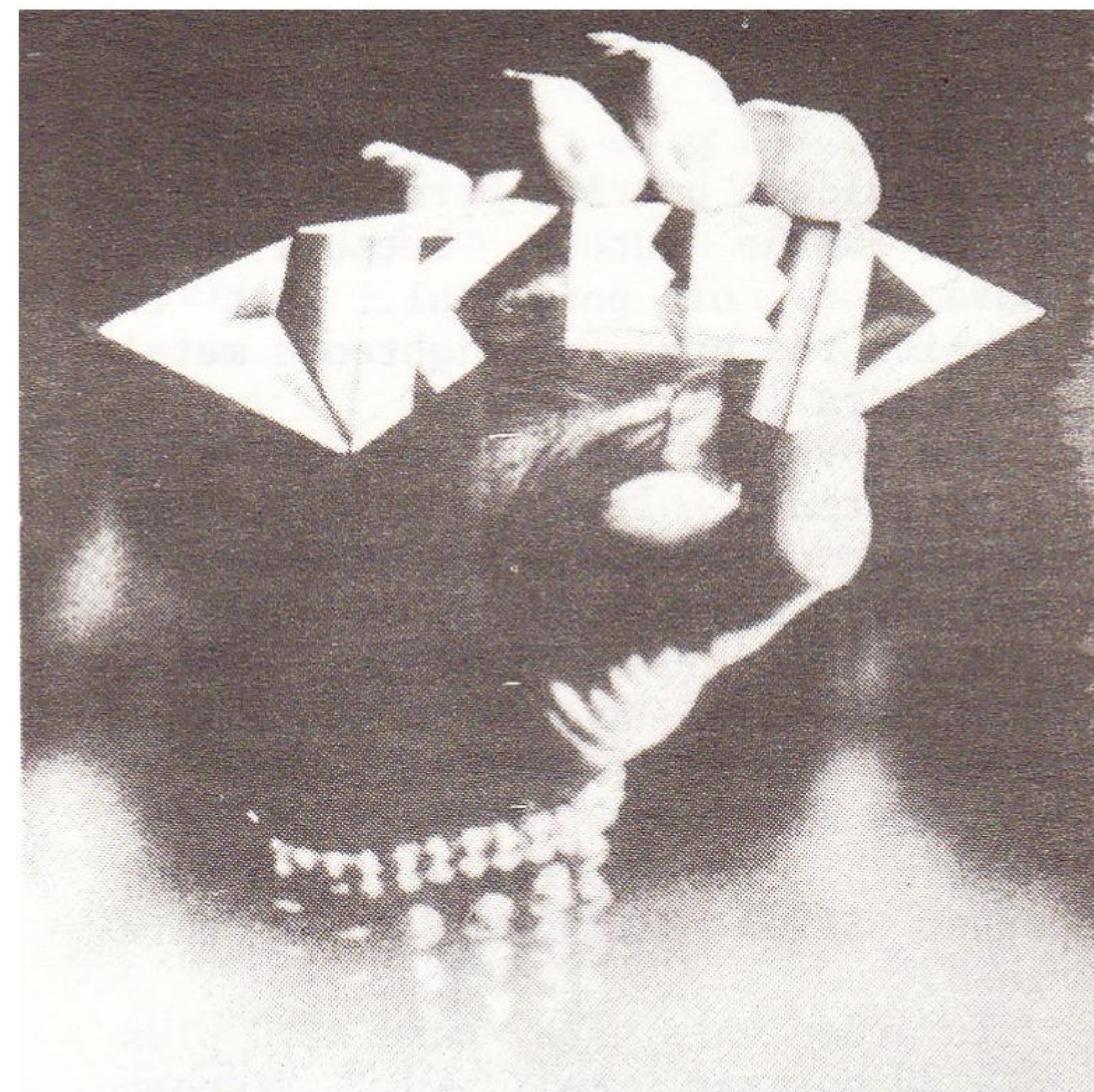
Highlights from the album are **Sightless Eyes**, an emotional, high-pitched rocker that opens side two. **Lonely Is The Night**, a melodic number played Malachia style, is probably the standout cut on the album. The band has had their video of the song aired on TBN's Real Videos and has plans to get it aired on MTV. It's a real good video, recorded on film, that shows off the band's personality well.

Another standout cut, and I hate to admit this (because I don't like anthemic songs where tons of people chant/shout the chorus), is **In Christ We Rock**. There's some nice guitar here, especially the intro. This song has a good hook too.

While Christian metal is still in its infant stage, almost anything on vinyl is snatched up by hungry fans. This one's worth snatching.

You can pick this up via Spring Arbor or Regency Music at your local Christian bookstore. Local hip

record stores that stock import metal albums should have this on their shelf. Important Records, a national importer, distributes this album.



Creed

This band from Germany delivers a straight-ahead, "crunch, cruncha-crunch" sound. They weave some typical, but nevertheless catchy, rhythms and hooks into their barrage of metal. The guitarists, Dittmar Huge and Udo Libutzki, go to work on every song. They're not super flashy or phenomenal, but they attack their strings with a frenzy.

Larry Miller had described their music as being similar to The Scorpions, so I grabbed up a copy as soon as I could. I was disappointed in my expectation of a Christian Scorpions, but still impressed. They have a ballad, called **Longing For You**, which is the song that has an obvious Scorpions feel and is probably the reason for the comparison.

As soon as I got past the "Okay, this isn't a new Christian Scorpions" attitude, I loved it.

The production doesn't touch the level of the Scorpions, but is pretty clean for a debut EP. I would give this EP a thumbs-up recommendation to any metalhead.

Creed's got the power sound that headbangers love. It's got that same crunch effect you get when you put a spoonful of Frosted Flakes in your mouth and chomp. The lead off track, **Turning Darkness Into Light**, has just a killer opening riff that'll get the stiffest neck a movin'. The crunch is there and so is the hook. Given some airplay, this song would be much requested, I'm sure.

The vocalist, Jessy Baron, has a unique voice and uses it very effectively, incorporating many of the standards for metal screamers. You know, the way a singer articulates and pronounces the words to fit the groove of the music, and all the growls and howls that spice up a metal song--it's all here.

I have to admire foreign bands who, being bilingual, write intelligent and poetic lyrics in English. I know if I tried to write a song in Spanish, it would turn out real choppy. Creed does a good job of evangelizing by means of relating the difference between good and evil and the change that Jesus brings to human life.

Klaus Binder, the drummer, does an outstanding job in making his presence known. I'd say the drum mix is superior to most of the Christian metal pressed in the U.S. It's pretty much up to par with the world's standards.

The follow-up material from this band ought to be dynamite. To get the album, contact Larry Miller (See his address in the Trading Post). To contact Creed, write to: Creed c/o Andres Grun, Trubaver Weg 3, 7820 Guppingen, West Germany.

Knock 'Em Alive - Dual Edge

By Paul Q-Pek

I'm going to break up this review into sections so you'll know what's what.

1) Album cover. Wow! What great graphics! This cover features an excellent drawing of the band. Of course all the members have beautiful hair and facial features (I wonder if they really look like the picture?). Oh well, they'll rack up several sales due to the album cover alone.

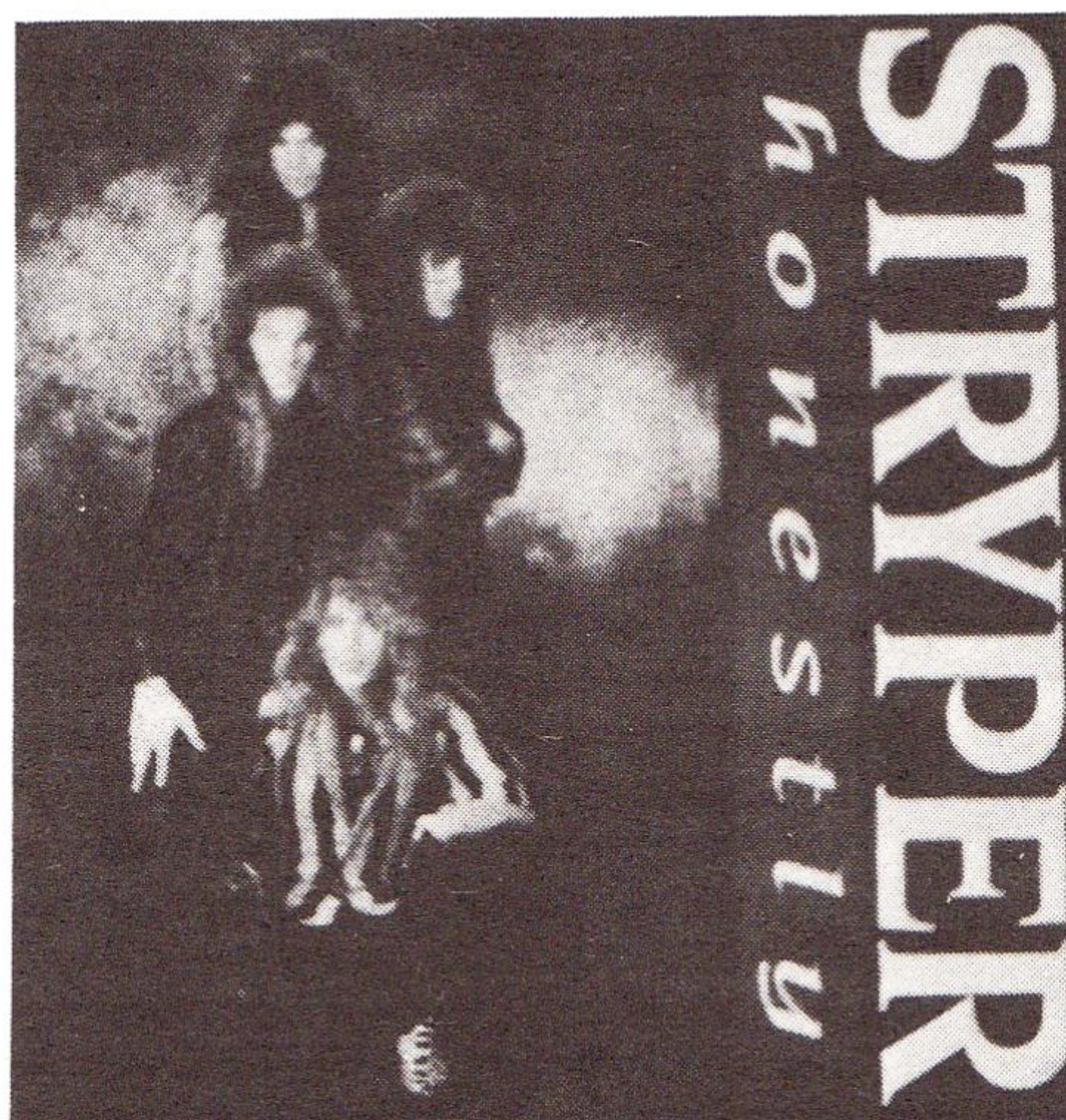
2) Instrumentality. This album is full of great guitar hooks, licks and leads. Sole guitarist Rick Wald provides 75% of what is good about this album. John Avery on bass and Terry Steinmeyer on drums provide solid support and a good foundation for Rick's guitar work. If you doubt Mr. Wald's talents, check out his solo on **New Life**. It's hot!

3) Vocals. You can tell right away, from the acappella vocal opening track **Lift Him Up**, that Dual Edge is putting a lot of faith in their vocal harmonies. Unfortunately, this is the weak link on **Knock 'Em Alive**. There are times that the harmonies are good, then there are times that the listener is forced to cringe a little. Lead vocalist Scott Turner at his best sounds like a cross between Michael Sweet and Vince Neil, but at times he lacks energy and seems to go a little flat.

We must remember that this is the first effort from a young band and in time their weak areas will surely improve.

4) Lyrics. The words on **Knock 'Em Alive** are most definitely evangelical. A simple, straight-forward presentation of new life in Christ. And here's something totally new in a Christian metal album: absolutely no reference is made to the devil, Satan, the beast, the enemy, or anything like that. I don't know if this is good or bad, but it is refreshing.

This is a good first effort from a good band and I'm sure we will be hearing more from them in the future.



Honestly single - Stryper

The 12" single of **Honestly** has a live version of **Loving You** on the back, which was recorded in Tokyo on their Soldiers Tour of Japan. It smokes! Timmy Gaines' bass is punching all through the song and, as usual, Robert Sweet is tearing it up on the drums (lots of cymbal smashes). It's really obvious why Robert is exhausted almost to the point of collapsing after each show.

This song doesn't have the mega touch-up production that live albums have, so it's a little rough on the edges, but nevertheless, it's a hot performance of a killer song. I don't know about you, but I really love the songs on their debut EP.

Stryper and Enigma are all too aware that people buy up any of their "limited edition" stuff, and this single is certainly a worthwhile purchase because of this live track.

Quotable Quotes...

****Do you plan on what you're gonna say when you preach? How do you prepare for your concert sermons?**

"Sometimes. I do a lot of praying. I try to look at the audience. Whenever I can, it's hard to do nowadays. It used to be that I could, you know, put some sunglasses on or if it was in the fall and people had coats on, they'd be lining up the street to get into a school or auditorium or whatever. I would put on a coat and some dark glasses and put a hat on my head or whatever and I'd go out in the crowd. I go around the place and talk to people and just shoot the breeze and get a sense of where they were at. Then I would go back into the hall and change and then we would pray and go out and do the concert. Then I had a complete understanding in a real sense of the pulse of that particular crowd. How many were Christians and how many weren't. You just get a sense of discovering what's going on. I still do that now and then but I can't get away with it as much anymore, cause more people know what I look like.

"I can't be as incognito as I used to be. But that's one of the things I've found real fun to do. I love being common. I hate the idea of a distance between people on the stage and people that aren't on the stage. There should be no distance. There really is not any distance. We put our pants on the same way in the morning as everybody else.

"A lot of the preparation is not only knowing God, being in the Word, being in prayer. That's so much of it, but also knowing that audience and trying to be aware of their particular needs. Many times I'll ask a promoter, 'What's goin' on in this town? Is it your typical, drugs, sex, rock and roll? Are people really into drinking here? What are the problems? What's going on? Is there any major thing happening in politics?' I ask a lot of questions. Not always, but a lot of the times, that gives me a sense of what's happening locally and how to respond. In Germany, the message I shared every night was, 'Where are the Bonnhouffers?' Because he was a German Christian. As a matter of fact, he was in on the assassination plot of Adolph Hitler. He wrote some incredible books on commitment and discipleship. What I'm saying is, 'Where are the Bonnhauffers today? Where are the people who do not bow the knee to Baal? Who won't get into the politics for life.' A lot of people in Germany right now are strung-out on politics. They deal with politics like it's a religion. Even some Christians have gotten way out of balance in being political activists and they're not really in the Word or prayer. Their most concern is not the spiritual



©
- S. Schmitzer + 87 -

Quotable Quotes...

cont'd:

need of man, which is salvation through Jesus Christ. So, that was the message that I challenged them with. In Northern Ireland I talked about the troubles, about the foolishness and the hypocrisy in a bigot. In the fact that bigotry is bigotry is bigotry. It gets right back to the Jews and the Samaritans and how Jesus treated the women at the well and the dealing between the man who was hurt on the road and the Samaritan. The Good Samaritan came by. There's some fabulous illustrations in scripture to break through on bigotry. So, I related with some of those in Northern Ireland. Trying to be sensitive to that crowd, to those people and their particular hurts, their needs, their thinking, what's going on.

"Most people are flattered that you know anything about their town or anything about their country, that you even cared enough to think anything about 'em. We go overseas or even up to Canada. I've studied the history at a lot of the countries. I'll listen to short-wave radio at times. I go to extremes to know what's goin' on. When I speak, they know it. I think that demonstrates in a very simple--you know, it doesn't take that much work to do it. A little homework--in a practical way that I love 'em and that Jesus does care and there are Christians out there who aren't interested in jammin' the same program down their throat night after night with no thought of their own feelings, their own specialness, their own uniqueness. I respect people. I do. I think a lot of people disrespect people for the wrong reasons. So, I want to demonstrate that by doing research and my homework well."

--Glenn Kaiser

**How do you minister? What kind of discernment do you receive?

"What I do is submit to God. I mean, I know this sounds cliché, but that's exactly what I do before I go on stage, regardless of whether I've been a bad boy or good boy throughout the day as far as being just, you know, dying to self. When it comes time to go on, my constant prayer is that, regardless of where I'm at in my walk, 'Just empty me and use me, 'cause that's all I have for You. That's all I can give You is my willingness to be used. I don't know what to say tonight, 'cause I don't know who those kids are and I don't know who's hurting, but, You know who's hurting, so You just tell me what to say and I'll just say it.' And I know better than to not say something, and if that's discernment, then I guess that's what it is. We don't have anything prepared, you know. We leave it in His hands. The only thing that's prepared with us is the order of the songs and we have some choreography. Basically it's all just a celebration of Jesus Christ up there."

"It's always different. I would say probably the most consistent thing is maybe the intro into whatever we begin with, but that's it. From that point on, it's whatever the Lord brings to mind."

**What goes on in your mind when you're actually ministering when you're up there?

"Well, it's not always the same. I've been there when I've actually felt as if I was separate from myself, listening to what I'm saying as well. I'm just part of what God's doin'. I'm not saying God speaks through me in that sense, but I mean I feel He inspires me to say what I'm saying. It's ad-lib or whatever. I mean it's whatever comes to mind. To prepare for that a lot of times I just sit down and read. When I get some time during the afternoon and just ask the Lord, you know, if there's anything in particular...and sometimes He will give me something. Just an idea, but He'll always explain about it, 'cause I don't know how to explain that...it just comes out. So I don't really question it. I just do it. Like yesterday (the Cornerstone



Photo by Dan Stawski

Les Carlsen wielding sword high at Cornerstone '87.

'87 gig) was a little different situation, because we were playing with all brothers and sisters in the Lord. I wouldn't stand up there and tell them what the Lord did in the way that we do for non-believers. Everyone knew, so yesterday turned out to be a praise and worship time. I never really realized that the Bloodgood stuff could be used for that, but it was. A lot of times it's very aggressively evangelistic, you know. Yesterday seemed to be just a praise and worship concert. Killing the Beast, you know...we were all excited about killing the beast.

"We're fairly intelligent guys, but there's a point where we just can stop and let the Lord just do it and we don't try and intellectualize and we don't try and arrange or guide the Spirit or force anything. I think, because of that, the Lord's really been able to use us."

--Les Carlsen

"I think you're gonna see a great apostasy in Christian Jesus music. You're gonna see a great bunch of Christian stars come out that are out for themselves..that are out for making big bucks and getting famous off the Lord. Great quality music and terrible quality spiritual walks. You're gonna see the devil starting to anoint Jesus music, just like he anointed the denominations for years and he anointed Pharisees. You're gonna see Christian music Pharisees, but you're gonna see people set apart for Jesus' purposes. What you're gonna see, the difference is their lifestyle.

"If the Lord blesses me financially, I just want to raise my standard of giving, not my standard of living. I don't think a person should get rich off of Jesus Christ."

--Keith Green, from the "Ministry Years Radio Special".

**What do you think about eyeliner and earrings?

"I think you should get the kind that doesn't run when you sweat a lot. What do I think of it? I use it on stage. I don't have any scripture for makeup, nor does he (a sceptic).

"When you go onstage and you're a professional musician or an actor and wearing stage makeup, it's very critical when you come under very strong stage lights. That's why Bloodgood wears makeup. Otherwise you get totally washed out. There's a lot of Christian bands that get washed out because they don't really act or look like a professional band. Bloodgood's never gonna be accused of that. My reply is 'I'm being all things to all men and I'm in a heavy metal band and that's the way you gotta look when you're in this type of metal that we play.' I used to wear makeup the way I do now when I was in acting and drama. Nobody ever said anything about it then. It's basically the same thing as far as I'm concerned."

--Michael Bloodgood

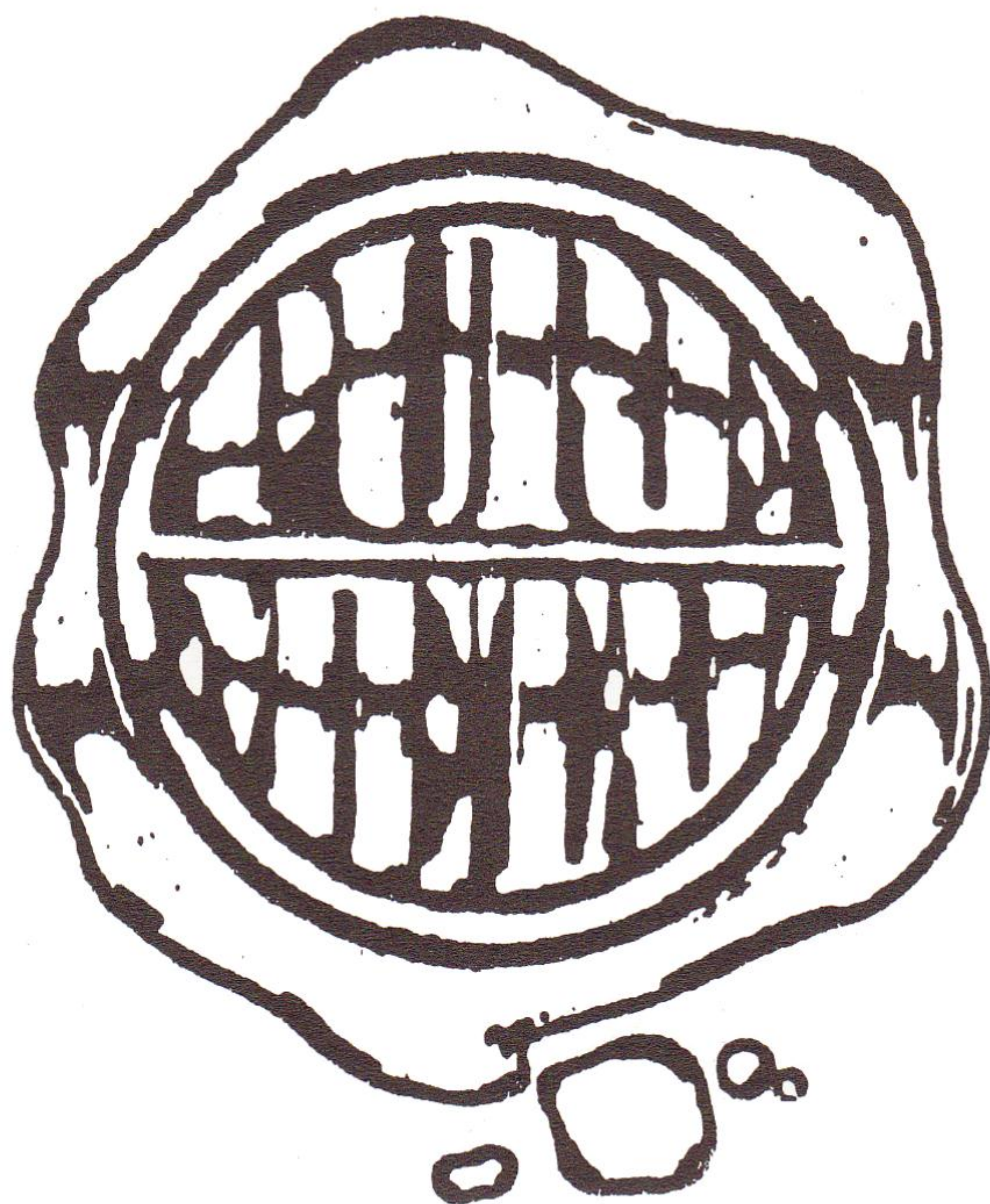


Photo by Doug Van Pelt

"When Stryper first came out, I had a big problem with them having secular bands open up for them and stuff. God has really, really changed my heart. That's what I kind of want, for secular bands to come out and open shows for us, because secular bands are gonna draw the secular people. Those are the ones we need to minister to, you know. We've gotta get those people in there. If we go out there and say, 'Here's Barren Cross, a Christian band.' All Christians come to a Christian concert. What's gonna motivate a non-Christian to go to a Christian concert? I think the motivation to get a non-Christian to come is to see a secular band."

--Jim La Verde,
Barren Cross

THERE IS METAL... THEN THERE IS



Look for New Releases Spring '88 from:

Bride

Daniel Band

Rosanna's Raiders

Saint

Force III

Heavy Righteous Metal



Photo by Lynn Miller

Darrell at Cornerstone '87

The Darrell Mansfield Band

Here's another glimpse into Darrell's heart, continued from last issue.

****What type of concert do you see the most fruit from? You know, like prisons, churches, bars, schools, whatever?**

"Prisons, as far as automatic fruit. We see more people get saved. Everytime we go to Chino prison, out where we live, there's always--I'm not exaggerating--always over a 100 people. It's usually right around 200 people that come forward.

"We don't flour it down. In fact, we don't even preach. We give our testimonies, but as far as the altar call itself, there's a guy named Darrell Sutton, who's an ex-con, that gets out there and really speaks their language man. He just gets down. It's amazing. Just amazing. Everytime we just sit there...I have to hold back the tears. The Holy Ghost is falling so radically. We'd spend a month in Europe, you know, and the church has sponsored it and spent thousands and thousands of dollars for us to go over there and here we saw in just one concert over 200 men get saved. The church sponsored for that one 8 or 900 bucks or something. Less than a grand compared to about 20 or 30. Gosh. In one day there was more fruit than four tours to Europe! It's just the way it worked

out. I'm saying all of this because I have to examine everything I do. I can't go over to Europe or Asia and everything if I don't see that God wants me there. I'm not just touring to say, 'I've been here, I've been there' and 'I've played in England.' God's not gonna honor that. My church prays for me and supports me and I'm accountable to them and, more importantly, to the Lord for that, because that's the Lord's money. I can't be wasting it, wasting the church's money, God's money and their tithe and my tithe if it's not gonna be fruitful.

"The high school thing, you know, anymore in Southern California, is no big deal. Unless you're Eddie Van Halen or somebody else that they saw on MTV last night or that type of deal, they don't care who you are. They figure, if you come and play at a school, then you must be some kind of stupid garage band. Most of the campuses have open campus at lunch and so they just bail. We end up playing to the seagulls, man. So why even do it? They're spoiled rotten. They're over-saturated in that area. There's concerts every night. Secular concerts. Every night you can go see a band somewhere. It's the entertainment capital of the world: Los Angeles and Orange County. So, we just gave up on that deal, but we go out of state or up to Northern California and do some concerts and they have mandatory

assemblies--we'll do that. We'll do our anti-drug, alchohol abuse raps. That works."

****Do they put restrictions on what you can say?**

"Oh, totally. We know it already. They don't have to tell us. In fact, we have to tell them we won't. Otherwise, we can't even come. We say, 'Look, we'll only share about drug and alchohol abuse,' but our songs tell 'em already what we are, so we don't have to say anything more. All we've gotta do is say, 'Hey! By the way, we want you to know that we're playing Friday night you know, at this high school auditorium and if you can't afford a ticket, here's a free one.' Usually it's a free concert anyway, but sometimes sponsors have to, you know they have to get a budget and all that. No, we don't generally do ticketed concerts anymore, but once in awhile we do. If we do, we always make them give some away, 'cause we want the Christian community to pay for it. The non-believers should get in for free, 'cause that's who we want there. They don't know us from Adam, except they heard us at the school."

****How can we pray for ya?**

"Pray that God continues to show us where we can be more vital. You know, I don't care about crossover. I really don't. It's not easy to say. People think, 'Yeah, sure.' But I don't. People that really know me know that's true. I'm not striving to be a star. I wanna be what God's called me to be. I wanna be faithful in my calling.

"People gotta realize that, man. If God's called you to be a janitor in a church, praise God. Be the best janitor you can be. That's not second rate. I'm not better than Billy Graham or anybody. God's called Billy Graham to be what he is. He's called my pastor to be what he is. He's called me to be what I am. I ask that people pray for me that I will do what God's called me to do. Paul said, Romans 1:1, 'I, Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle for the glory and the kingdom of Jesus Christ.' I say, 'I, Darrell, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an evangelist.' That's what I am, an evangelist.

"I wanna reach as many people as I can. The Lord knows who those people are. Maybe it's a nation. Maybe it's gonna be Australia next year. I don't know. But again, I knew I wasn't ready to do a secular thing with the band I was in before. I believe we are now. I'm prayin' in that direction.

"If I can't get distribution world-wide, then why go over to Japan and Korea if they can't get my records? Why tour the United States if I have to tell some kid that comes up to me after a concert that's at a high school auditorium and says, 'Where can I get your



Darrell with Loverboy in the studio.

records? I don't have any money tonight or I wanna buy some for my friends.'

"I say, 'Well, I don't know. Are there any Bible bookstores around?' And they look at you, like 'What? What's a Bible bookstore?'

"I'm not puttin' down Bible bookstores. Praise God for 'em. Most kids just don't know about 'em. They need to go out and pick up those records at a normal record store. So, I wanna be able to do that. I hope that Frontline and other labels can do that now. If not, I'm seriously thinking about putting something totally different in the game. I'm talking about a band that's called Fortress or whatever. You know, goin' out there and doing something totally different and seeing if it works. I'm just hoping, just whatever God wants to do. I know that he's given me this ministry as Darrell Mansfield Band and now everyone knows me in the gospel music thing and that's great. There's enough there and I just wanna reach as many people as possible, so I'm just prayin' about those areas. That's the only thing I guess people could pray about.

"You can't be something you're not. You gotta be true to what you are. God's given me this combination of guys. We're gonna be what we are. We'll do it the best.

We'll see how far that goes. If God wants us to go another direction, I'll have to consider that. It's one of those deals. I was lookin' at Mylon's band the other night. There's a couple of new guys in his band that are young and they're excited about the Lord. Gosh, it's great. It's neat to see that. I listen to Mylon preach. I've had people tell me Mylon and I are so similar. I couldn't believe all the things...the things he was sayin' and scriptures he uses--the exact same scriptures I use. There were times when he was preaching I could not...you know, if you would've written it out on paper, and removed his accent, his twang, you'd never have known the difference. I was gettin' blessed. I've gotta be careful how I say that, because it'll sound like I'm an ego-maniac. I really appreciate the fact that his concern to clearly present the gospel is more important to him than anything else. That's where it's at man. I wish I heard that more often.

"It blows me away. People can stand up there and sing and they can talk to audiences and say jokes and be clever, but they can't preach. They got all that wit and all that whatever and yet they can't, or they say they can't, or they won't, get up there, for whatever reason, and share the gospel.

"They spend all that time writing songs, all that time practicing their drums, their guitar, whatever they're doin' and they never spend any time learning to share the gospel.

"I got saved as an entertainer. When I was an entertainer, I got saved. I quit entertainment to go into the ministry. There's a real difference there. It's cool. We're talking about music and we're talking about style, all that stuff's real boring to me. When it comes right down to it: yeah, you've gotta have a tool. Yeah, you want your tool to be the best. As a fisherman, I want to have the right bait, but I'm not caught up into bait. The hook is Jesus Christ. That's the gospel. That's what I want. That's what's gotta be sharp. I'm not caught up into the image of whatever I'm into. It's not me. It's just bait. When my head hits the pillow at night, where's Darrell Mansfield? As far as his relationship with Jesus Christ. When I walk off stage and lay down my harmonica, where am I with Jesus? That's where the rubber meets the road. Who do they see on stage? Who was presented that night? All they saw was Darrell Mansfield and his band and all his clever little songs and whoop-de-da and they laughed and were entertained and they went home. If they didn't see

Jesus and weren't challenged, and the Holy Spirit didn't effect their lives, then I failed. I failed the Lord, man! I've done exactly what every secular musician's doin': tryin' to sell himself, sell his records, promote him: self.

"John the Baptist said it all when he said, 'I must decrease that He might increase.' He prepared the way for the Lord. That's what I'm doin' onstage. I'm preparing the way for the Lord. From the first song 'till towards the end I must decrease that He might increase. Jesus Christ appears and that's Who they need to take home: Jesus Christ, the gospel...exhorted, blessed, healed, encouraged, the gifts of the Holy Spirit, whatever, just they'd better have seen the Lord. Otherwise, I've just entertained them.

"I'm sick and tired of people saying, 'Well, what's wrong with entertainment?' Nothing. You wanna watch tv? Fine. Go watch it. You want a record? Go listen to it. Put a jukebox on, whatever. If you wanna be entertained, why spend all that money to come to a concert and drive all that way? 'Well, I wanna see somebody live and worship my hero.'

"It's so funny, because Jimmy Swaggert and some of these other people don't realize how much I agree with 'em. I'm a minister. I'm an evangelist, man. I'm grieved by all these things I see, too. I agree with 'em so much it's not even funny. Just I don't throw the baby out with the bath water. There's no such thing as a sinful note in the musical scale. If there is, let me know. I won't play it or sing it. I'm not gonna spiritualize my taste in music. I'm not gonna be that ignorant. I'm not prejudice or whatever you want to call it. I'm not blind. I've literally seen thousands and thousands and thousands of people come to the Lord through this music that's supposed to be so funky. Just because they don't like it. Well, I don't necessarily like their music, but I'm not gonna put it down. I thank God that He's using 'em. They're reaching people I can't reach. God called me to Nineveh. I don't always like it. I don't like the bait I use all the time. I get tired of singing rock and roll. My voice gets hoarse. I tell ya, it's an easier job to sing some of the ballads and stuff that Jimmy does. It's a lot easier on your vocal chords, that's for sure. A lot less energy, you know? But hey! God called me to Nineveh. As long as I see fruit and people getting saved and, not just saved, but stay saved, disciplined, followed-up, grow in Christ, get into a church, into a covering, have a pastor over them. Those are things I encourage people to do. To grow in Christ, get into a discipleship training class and a church that's gonna be there for

them and raise them in the Lord to be mature men and women of God and to go out and reach people for Christ. Realize that all Darrell is is a servant. I, Darrell Mansfield, servant, called to be an evangelist for Jesus Christ. And that's all I'm doin'. Just trying to fulfill the ministry God's given me. Just like my pastor, Chuck Smith, fulfilling his ministry: pastor/teacher.

"I was blown away when he told me, 'I wanted to have a faith healing ministry. I wanted to have the gift of healing.' I couldn't see him doing that. That's not the Pastor Chuck I know. The Pastor Chuck I know is pastor/teacher. But see, I didn't know him when he was struggling with that. I just knew him when he was doing what he's supposed to be doin'. And that's why he does it well, 'cause that's what God has called him to do. That's the bottom line. That's all I'm doing. I don't have any animosity towards anybody that doesn't understand what I'm doing. I love 'em and pray for 'em. We're all gonna be there in heaven to see the fruit, and anybody who thinks it's funky is gonna be awful embarrassed when they see the thousands of lives that have been changed. I've got people that've come to the Lord ten years ago that are pastors now--through this music that's supposed to be of the devil. I've been in the ministry for 14 years, so now I've got a second generation of kids. You know, in other words, the parents that came to the Lord have children that are now coming to the Lord. A second generation of people. It's great. It's exciting."

Darrell got to see some of this fruit at Cornerstone, when some of the guys in Mylon's band told Darrell that he'd encouraged and blessed them years earlier.

"I just go, 'Oh wow. Praise God!' I didn't know that, ya know? I really appreciated 'em saying that, 'cause it really encouraged me. Sheep begetting sheep, ya know? That spiritual reproduction. That's what it's all about. Man, it just blesses me.

"Someday I'd like to teach these things: 'get into a church; get under a pastor; submit yourself to a church. Don't be a spiritual Lone Ranger. You need that covering, that encouragement and support. Be accountable to 'em, ya know? The devil's gonna whoop you up one side and down the other if you try and be a spiritual Lone Ranger. You'll fall. Have Bible studies and pray together. Start your own little church within a church-kind of thing. Minister to one another man. Let God see that love and then you'll see the anointing like you've never seen before. As much time as you spend on that instrument, man, spend it on God's Word and prayer and let Him minister to ya, and

present the gospel! If you have to write it out and read it, so what?'

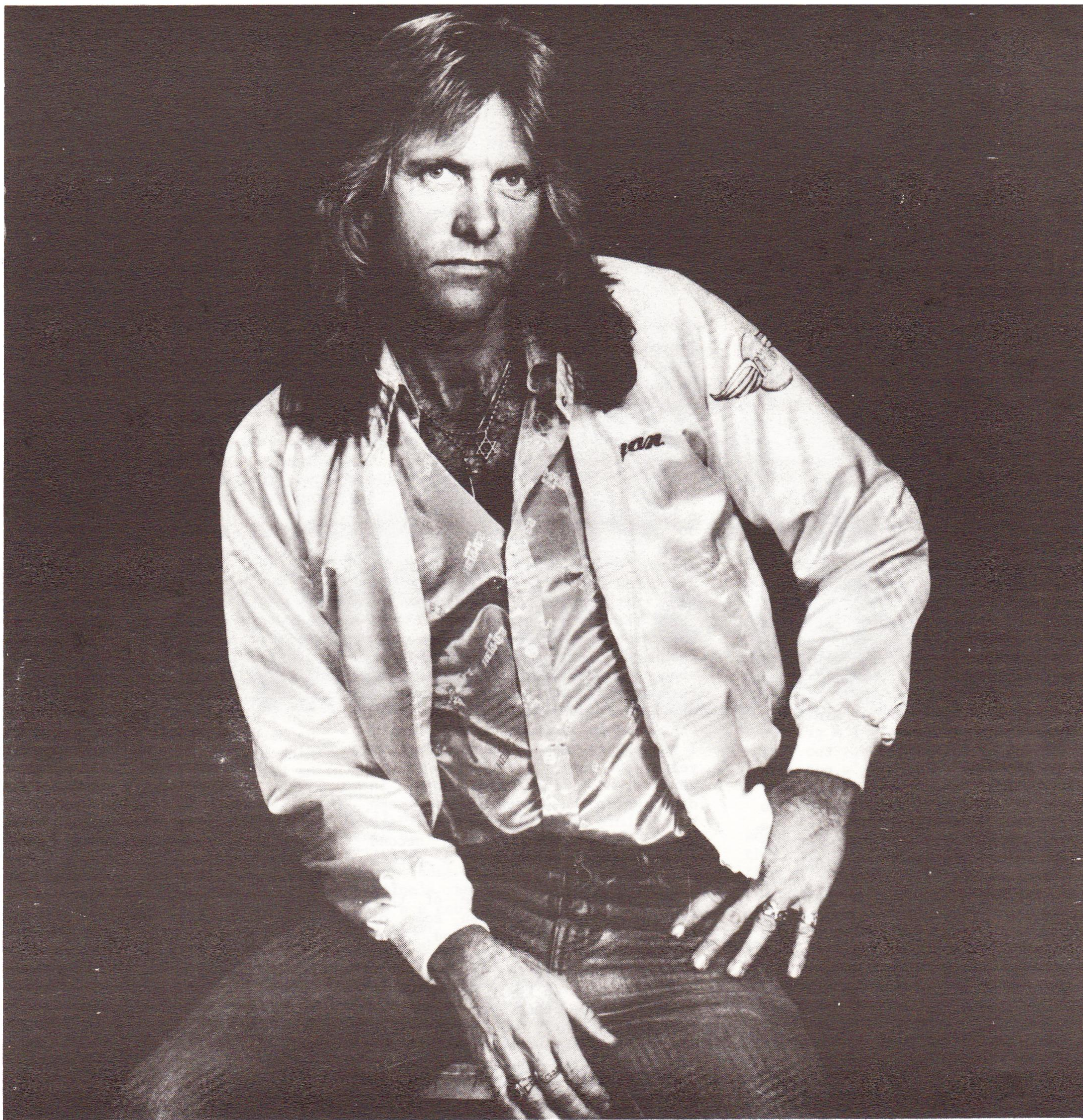
"I've heard people say, 'Well I can't...God hasn't called me...I'm not a minister, I'm not a preacher.' Well, get somebody to take with you on the road to do it then. There's a lot of people that are anointed to preach. Take 'em with ya. You know, if you invest 2 or 3,000 dollars into a p.a. system and pay a road crew X amount of dollars to go with it, you can afford a minister. Cut back on something else. What's more important? I'd rather have a preacher up there givin' the gospel than another amp or another guitar for the collection.

"I feel like there's kids that got their band, 'I wanna be like Stryper,' ya know, 'I wanna be like this and that.' They go get the outfits, they go get the makeup, they get all these things and they step out onstage. They got their songs that sound like somebody elses, but at least they're tryin' and that's cool--ya gotta start somewhere...They stand up there and they don't know what to do or say. If they could just pick up the Bible and read John 3:16 or 3:3 and say, 'Do you know what that means? This is what it means...you can be born again...Jesus died on the cross for our sins, man.' Give a little personal testimony and say, 'Would you like to receive Christ? Come on up here, man. Put Satan behind you. Kick him in the face. Put him where he belongs.'

"By the way, people don't like me to say that, you know? 'Kick the devil in the face.' They say, 'Oh, Michael the archangel said you couldn't rail accusations. He had to say, 'Lord rebuke thee.' Well, of course. He's an angel. He's not full of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit hadn't come to the church yet. Jesus said, 'you'd do greater things than me.' I don't stand up there with my authority and say, 'Kick the devil in the face.'

"In the name of Jesus Christ, he's a punk. In the name of Jesus Christ, he's a wimp. In the name of Jesus Christ, he's a liar. I'll call him what I want to, as far as him being weak in comparison to Jesus Christ, Who is the Almighty God. That upsets people sometimes. I can't believe it. I don't know what their concern is. If they're afraid of me or that Satan's gonna smoke me or something. I'm not afraid of Satan. I know he's wise, he tries to get me when he can, but I'm not afraid of him, 'cause greater is He that is in me than he that's in the world. If I'm wrong, show me in the scriptures.

"I have power, authority over Satan. Resist the devil and he shall flee. Flee, not walk away. Flee. How do we resist the devil? I tell ya how to get rid of the devil, man: with God's Word. With all the power and authority of God's Word. That's how you do it.



"Kids just don't spend time with God. We've got this little subculture where kids just go to concerts and they're not being challenged for whatever reasons. It's like, most of the bands have agents and managers and stuff and so they've gotta charge more money and what happens is they've out-priced the church. The pastors can't afford to bring these bands in, so they have ticket-type things, there's no follow-up, there's no altar calls. What happens is, you've got this Christian subculture that listens to music. The kids aren't being challenged and the church isn't following up. It's a real dilemma. I've been really prayin' that we can really get

people back to the first century church, ya know? If you read the first five chapters of Acts, that's what we should be doin' right now. We've got to keep it simple.

"That's the blueprint. The blueprint is the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and keep walkin'. Right now, this generation should be in the 122nd chapter of Acts, you know what I mean? We should continue and always remember the blueprint. Teaching and preaching the gospel--that's the command. That we go out in all the world and preach the gospel. That's our commission, the great commission that we have.

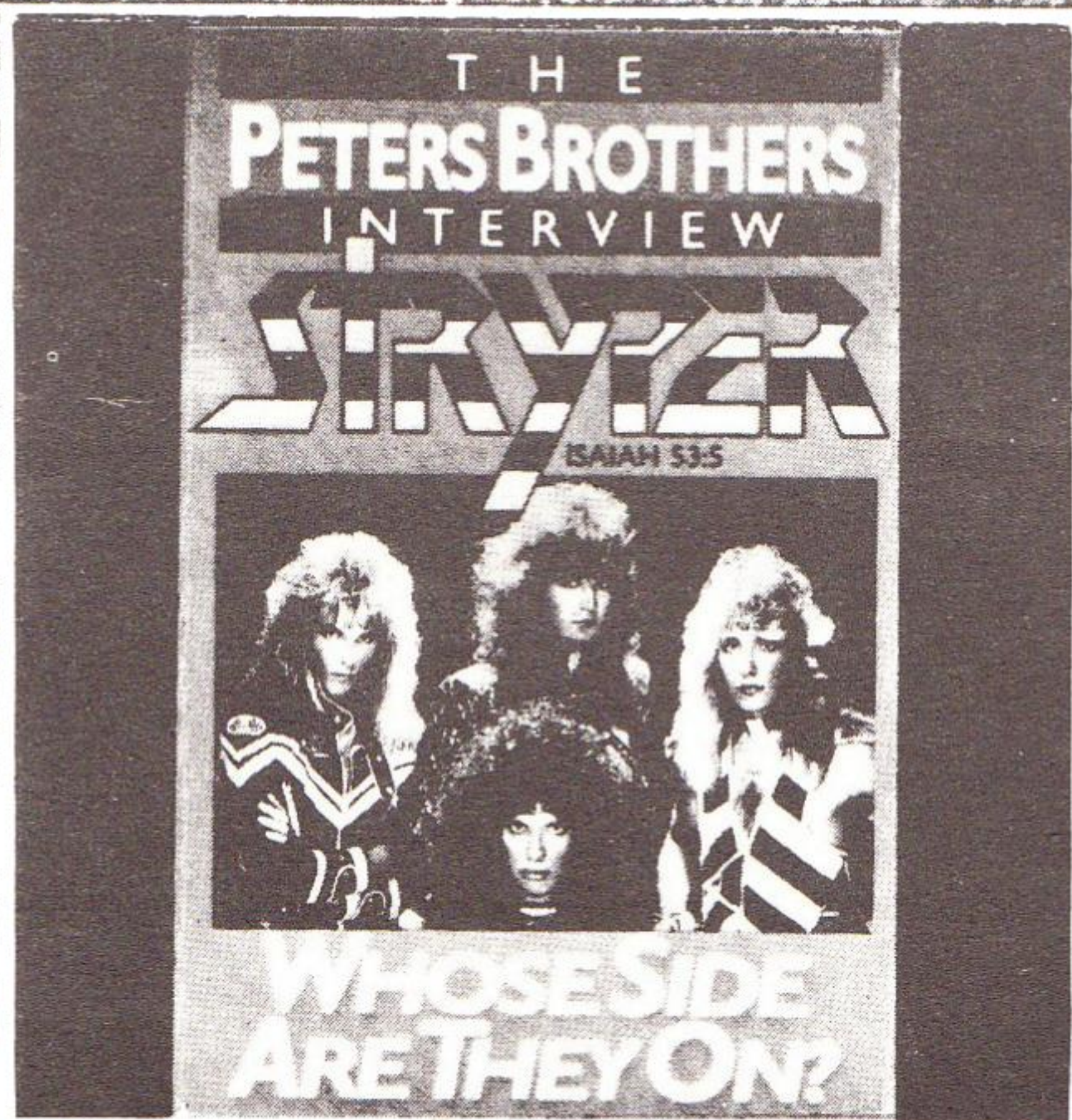
"I look around and I don't see it. I see bands, I see record labels, Dove Awards, and magazines that tell

us who's who. We don't need the Christian celebrities, Christian stars. We don't need magazines that tell us...like the Enquirer, the Christian Enquirer. We don't need Christian Enquirers. We need people to report what God is doing. If God isn't doing something, we should say, 'Why isn't God doing something?' and let's exhort and encourage one another so we'll get back to preaching the Word of God. That's what it's supposed to be all about."

Amen. The latest news on Darrell is he will be heading back over to Korea and Japan this Spring. He's also a new daddy. His wife gave birth the Justin Christian Mansfield on November 3rd. Congratulations, Darrell!!



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To believe means more than just at one time having faith in Jesus and what He's done. It means to respond to the facts on a continual basis. The facts are clear: Jesus died for our sins, rose from the dead and invites us to follow Him and be a part of His kingdom. Our response needs to be sensible: "Okay, You're God, I'm man. You are the king. I am Yours. Rule over me."

This is not a one-time thing. Believing is an active verb (meaning continuous action). It is continually behaving in a way that says, "You are God and I am man. What You say goes."

It's not enough to say, "I believe in God." You need to be able to say, "I believe God."

See the difference? This kind of statement shows a relationship that's active and experiencing good two-way communication. It shows that one is following God, not just saying, "Oh yeah, He's there." It describes a lifestyle that says, "You're there, Jesus, and I wanna know You. I throw myself at Your feet."

Take the first step today. Believe in Him as your Savior and make Him your master.

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." (John 20:31)

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

"Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." (John 3:18)

"Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." (1 John 5:5)

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible: New International Version c 1978 by the New York International Bible Society, used by permission.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22 February 1988

To: All Heaven's Metal Subscribers

From: Doug Van Pelt

Re: Jimmy Swaggert

Dear brothers and sisters:

I am saddened by the recent announcement of the exposed sin in Jimmy Swaggert's life. I am very concerned that us Christian rockers respond in a Christ-like manner. If we act with just a tiny bit of bitterness and an attitude of: "Well, he got what he deserved"; then we've committed a greater sin than he. We are not to gloat in our brother's falling. Jimmy Swaggert is a minister of the gospel. He is anointed. We are to not stab our brother, even though he's been an enemy of sorts of our ministry (Christian rock), but show him love and respect (Matthew 5:44). I'm not saying we should overlook or condone his sin. We follow a righteous and holy God. What he's done is wrong. He is being shaken, so that only what can stand will remain. We are not to touch the Lord's anointed, just as David didn't touch Saul. David knew of the sin in King Saul's life. He even drove an evil spirit out of Saul with his harp playing! (1 Samuel 16:14-23) Here was a man who had every right, by human standards, to condemn and destroy Saul. Yet he showed respect for Saul, because Saul was anointed of God (1 Samuel 24:6). Listen! We must behave in the same way. This is an opportunity for us as believers to shine with the glory of Jesus! We must not backbite and stab our brother. Let's show the world that we really are servants of God! Let's refrain from attacking Jimmy Swaggert's character and lift up Jesus. Let's turn every conversation about Jimmy Swaggert's sin into a conversation about Jesus! If we fail to do this, just who are we glorifying? Would Jesus think quietly in his heart, "I'm glad it happened to him!"? No way! Neither should we.